"Congress shall make no law..."

THE VALLEY PATRIOT

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AUGUST, 2024
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Edition #250

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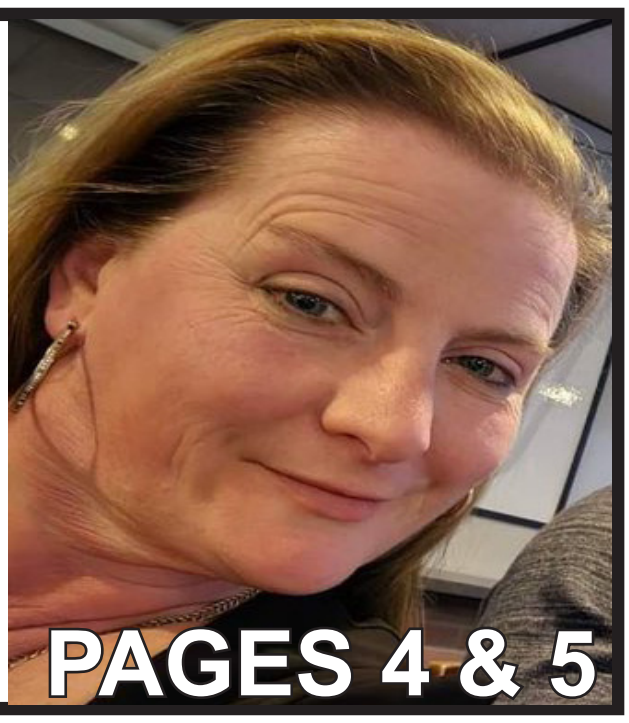
Conflicts of Interest

Lawrence's "Homeless Coordinator" Kelly Birchall Frazier tried to steer $200K in Federal Funds to her own non-profit, IVCS



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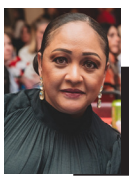

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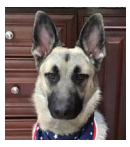

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

"Serving our Veterans and Their Families Since 1983"

James Seymour
GUEST COLUMNIST

Writing for the Valley Patriot this month is US Navy Veteran, and current Executive Director of the Cape and Islands Veterans Outreach Center, Jim Seymour. He is presenting his story and the center's programs supporting our Veterans to the Valley Patriot readers this month. Many of the Valley Patriot readers will remember Jim from his many years of living in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

The Cape and Islands Veterans Outreach Center (hereinafter "CIVOC") has been supporting veterans and their families on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket continuously since 1983.

We are in our 41st year of providing a comprehensive menu of the essential life sustaining services across the three-county region that we serve. Our work empowers veterans to achieve lasting reintegration into the families and communities for which they have sacrificed.

Established by veterans to serve veterans across Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket, we return ninety-one cents of every donor dollar we receive back to the men and women we serve...and none of our overhead is paid through or with donor resources. We are proud to be able to share that we have recently partnered with the Bob Woodruff Foundation and their "Got Your Six" program, giving us a national profile. With over forty years serving the men and women who have served us, CIVOC is highly effective at meeting our mission and its goals.

Veterans have come to Cape Cod and the Islands for many years due to the more favorable climate and the many channels for public support to be found in our region. Among those, access to food and housing remain components that are essential to achieving favorable outcomes for the veterans and their families within our region. CIVOC affords our clients multiple food pantries, counseling services, transitional housing (when available), and many other supportive resources. Moreover, the board and executive leadership is heavily weighted towards military veterans who work exhaustively to help their brothers and sisters.

Apart from the individuals and families we served during FY23, we referred out hundreds of additional leads to our veterans for housing, medical records, and social security benefit information. We currently manage thirteen single room occupancy (SRO) transitional housing units in two locations, Hyannis, and Dennis, and we provide a robust case management program for every resident, as well as case management for four veterans living in affordable housing located in Sandwich. Last year our Food Pantry served over 2,500 Veterans, and with family members added, the total helped was 13,440 souls.

As it was for many regional nonprofits, the COVID pandemic era changed much

HERO: PAGE 26

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Two Arrested for Distribution After Tractor Trailer Stopped in Andover

BOSTON – Two illegal alies from India were arrested on July 29th, in connection with the distribution of controlled substances.

Simranjit Singh, 28, and Gusimrat Singh, 19, of Fresno, Calif. were each charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances. Both men made initial appearances yesterday in federal court in Boston and remain in federal custody at this time.

Investigators became aware of a California-based drug-trafficking organization ("DTO") interested in transporting methamphetamine and other drugs to Boston. Investigators acting in an undercover capacity, began communicating with a member of the DTO who agreed to sell 65 pounds (approximately 32 kilograms) of methamphetamine to the undercover agents.

On July 29th, att approximately 10:15pm, a white tractor trailer arrived at a planned Andover address to deliver methamphetamine to the undercover agents. The driver and passenger of that tractor trailer, later identified as Gusimrat Singh and Simranjit Singh, allegedly handed off 65 pounds of suspected methamphetamine to the undercover agents. The men were immediately taken into custody.

While searching the cab of the tractor trailer, over 400-kilogram bricks of suspected cocaine was discovered, worth more than $10.5 million.

"The sheer amount of drugs seized in this one case is disturbing and dangerous. These defendants allegedly took a cross-country trip to distribute illicit narcotics into Massachusetts communities," said Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy. "I am grateful for our dedicated law enforcement partners who have worked so diligently to prevent harmful drugs from reaching our streets. Drug traffickers should beware: we will find you, and we will prosecute you to the fullest extent of federal law."

"Seizures of this magnitude have a significant public health and safety impact on our local communities," said Special Agent in Charge Michael J. Krol for Homeland Security Investigations in New England. "These investigations are difficult and dangerous, yet it remains imperative that HSI continue to work with our partners to disrupt the flow of dangerous drugs into New England."

The charge of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, at least three years and up to life of supervised release and a fine of up to $1,000,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy and Michael J. Krol, Special Agent in Charge, Homeland Security Investigations, in New England made the announcement. Valuable assistance was provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Andover Police Department, Milton Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police. Assistant U.S. Attorney Steve Hassink of the Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit is prosecuting the case.

This investigation is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Strike Force Initiative.

Is this Kamalot?

Ted Xenakis
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

For those old enough to remember, the White House of John and Jackie Kennedy was likened to Camelot, that mythical castle and court associated with King Arthur. It was a time of new beginnings and possibilities for America, to be led by the young President from Massachusetts and his beautiful First Lady.

Now we have the prospect of Kamalot, the presidency of one Kamala Harris. Of course, she has ascended to the Democrat nominee even though she has never been in a presidential primary in either 2020 or 2024. Not one single primary vote in two presidential elections, and this from the party who rails about Donald Trump's danger to democracy.

Only the democrat machine could manufacture the kind of silent coup that took down their party patriarch after it became clear he could not win in November. That same machine, and especially Kamala Harris, certainly knew that Joe Biden was compromised, and yet they hid that information from the voting public until the wheels fell off the wagon at the June 27th debate disaster.

Interestingly, while Joe's polls were in the tank, Kamala's were in the toilet…. until she became the party darling. Last year, as vice-president, she garnered the worst VP polling in NBC history. This year she polled nearly as poorly as Joe Biden when matched up with Trump, until the party dumped Biden. Now, according to this poll and that, she is neck and neck with Mr. Trump. Amazing how that happens.

Of course, the democrats and their media co-conspirators have taken a massive eraser to the chalkboard of Kamala's record and leftist positions. A review of her 59 years before two weeks ago sheds light on who she really is, rather than the policy make-up artists who are engineering her light speed metamorphosis.

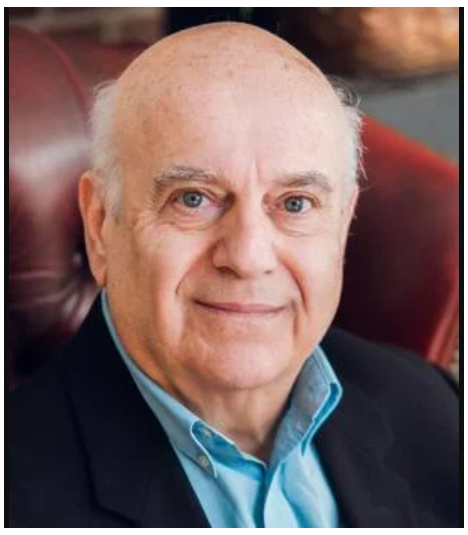
In her real political life, as a senator and in her aborted run for president in 2020, Kamala wanted to ban all fracking as she embraced unabashedly the Green New Deal. She championed an open border and a pathway to citizenship for all illegal aliens. She supported Bernie Sanders' plan to eliminate the entire private health insurance industry and provide Medicare for All; a single payer system built on more taxes and to be run entirely by the government. In other words, socialized medicine.

Kamala supported gun bans, student loan forgiveness and getting rid of the senate filibuster. She has no intention of keeping the Trump 2017 tax cuts that had created a vibrant economy before the COVID pandemic. She boycotted Bibi Netanyahu's speech to Congress so she could go speak to a Black sorority group. Her support of Israel in its existential battle takes second place to her progressive base-pleasing calls for a cease fire and two state solution with a "moderate" Hamas.

In sum, she was (and still is) a left wing San Francisco radical who embraces everything that has gone wrong in America. She has NO foreign policy experience, unless you want to count her disastrous role as the "Border Czar."

She recently called Joe Biden's record as the best in modern history. She is an unapologetic devotee of all things DEI. She loves gender identity over biology and she adores the idea of directing disproportionate tax dollars to segments of the country based upon race.

Well, turning on a dime, Kamala is not



so sure she wants to ban all fracking, not so sure about Medicare for All, not so sure about some of her other left-wing positions. This turnabout is di rigueur for a political whore, and when it comes to selling yourself, Kamala takes second place to no one……well, maybe Miss Hillary.

So, America. If you think a Harris presidency will be another Camelot, I suggest Kamalot will be more like Spamalot. ◊

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Duggan Found Not Guilty on Bogus Charges

Cops Testify Frazier Claimed She Owned St. Andrews Church

A six-member jury exonerated Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan last month at Lawrence District Court on charges he violated a harassment order out of Salem, New Hampshire.

The harassment order was taken out by Lawrence's homeless coordinator Kelly Birchall Frazier who admitted she was mad that Duggan had published a story about her that she called "harassing."

While awaiting a hearing scheduled for April 22nd in Salem, NH, Duggan attended an engagement party at St. Andrew's Church function hall in Methuen on April 20th.

He posted a photo of himself and the father of the bride on Facebook and identified his location as St. Andrew's Church.

Hours later, Frazier went to Methuen Police claiming he was in violation of the harassment order for being "at my work" and according to the arresting officer, claimed she owned the building.

Frazier works for the City of Lawrence and her office is located at 360 Merrimack St. According to the Secretary of State's Office and the Attorney General's Office her non-profit address is listed at 47 Blanchard St. in Lawrence. No mention of 90 Broadway.

Testifying during Duggan's two-day jury trial, Methuen Police Officer Phalen identified herself as the arresting officer and detailed the night they showed up in North Andover to arrest Duggan saying he was "very cooperative."

Duggan's Attorney Bob Lewin of Andover questioned Officer Phalen about the night of April 20th.

"When he told you he was at an engagement party earlier that evening, didn't you tell my client, Mr. Duggan that Kelly Frazier owned the building and that he was being arrested for violating the harassment order because she owned the building?"

Phalen: Yes

Lewin: Why did you tell him that?

Phalen: Because that's what she told me.

Lewin: And didn't Mr. Duggan say she can't own the building because it's a church?

Phalen: He did.

Lewin: In fact, didn't he ask you, 'did she show you proof she owns a church? I don't believe she owns that church?'

Phalen: Yes he did, repeatedly.

Lewin: And you arrested Mr. Duggan on her word, didn't you?

Phalen: Yes

Lewin: But that church is owned by the Archdioceses of Boston isn't it?

Phalen: Oh, I don't know

Lewin: You didn't check?

Phalen: No

Kelly Birchall Frazier denied telling the officers that she owned the building and said that Duggan knew she had an office in that building because she called him to buy advertising and told him the address long ago.

Lewin: So, then, did you buy any advertising from Mr. Duggan?

Birchall Frazier: "No"

When Duggan took the stand in his own defense, he was grilled by the assistant district Attorney Timko who asked incredulously: "Mr. Duggan is it really your testimony here today that you had no idea Kelly Frazier had an office in that building?"

Duggan: "Not only did I not know it then, but I still haven't seen one shred of evidence up to this very moment that she either owns that building or that she has an office in that building. I haven't seen a rental agreement, a lease agreement, or any evidence at all."

Duggan turned to the jury and asked "have you?"

Witnesses also testified that when Duggan learned Frazier had a van parked in the parking lot while he was at the party, he immediately got up and left.

During closing arguments Attorney Lewin asked the jury: "If my client, Mr. Duggan thought for one minute he was in a building that was going to get him arrested, do you think he would have posted a photo and listed his location on Facebook?"

"Does that make sense to anyone?"

The jury came back with a unanimous verdict of not guilty in about 20 minutes.

Duggan thanked each juror as they left the courtroom. After hugging the dozen or so friends and family members in attendance, he turned to his lawyer and said, "They only heard her speak for 5 minutes but they saw enough to know that she's a liar and they set me up."

Duggan has hired New Hampshire Attorney Greg Sullivan of Sullivan and Malloy to appeal the original harassment order as Frazier admitted she only took out the order because he was reporting on her, and because her first two harassment orders were already dismissed with the same allegations.

"She never should have been able to file a third time with the same exact allegations that were dismissed twice. I am looking forward to getting this in front of the New Hampshire Supreme Court and having my record expunged," Duggan said.◊

Judge Rules Harassment Order Can't be Used to Stop Duggan's Expose of Frazier

Salem, N.H. District Cout Judge Zaino ruled last month that Lawrence Homeless Coordinator Kelly Birchall Frazier cannot use a harassment order and the violence against women act to stop Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan from reporting on her actions in her official capacity as a public employee.

Duggan had bee gagged for 127 days by the judge who initially ruled he could not publish his story.

"This order does not prohibit defendant from posting and commenting on petitioner's public duties as charges of official wrong or neglect may be expressed by way of argument to the public." Judge Michael Zaino concluded at the second hearing.

FRAZIER TRIES TO STOP INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS USING HARASSMENT ORDERS

On March 8th Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan posted on Facebook that the following day he was releasing his findings of a year-long investigation into Lawrence's Homeless Coordinator Kelly Birchall Frazier (see story next page).

Within hours a North Andover Police Officer knocked on the door of the Valley Patriot and handed Duggan a harassment orders out of Salem, NH where Frazier claimed Duggan had threatened her life on his podcast.

One of the provisions of the order was that Duggan was not allowed to publish anything about Frazier, especially on social media, thereby killing Duggan's story.

Frazier claimed in the court filings under pains and penalties of perjury that Duggan gave out her home address on his podcast and told people to go to her home and harass her. She also claimed Duggan posted a photo on Facebook "of me and my husband with threats".

The photo Duggan posted was only of her husband Debo Brown at Duggan's Charity Bash the year before. Kelly Birchall Frazier was not in the photo, nor was there a threat of physical violence.

She also claimed that because Duggan made an analogy about the Facebook war between he and her husband Debo, and the war in Gaza - where Duggan said there would be no more cease-fires between them (because Debo had violated their agreements multiple times in the past) she was "in fear of my life" because he said he has tanks that are going to roll over the Gaza border!!

WOMEN IN FEAR DON'T SEEK OUT THEIR ATTACKERS

After claiming she was so in fear for her life from Tom Duggan that she needed a harassment order, Frazier showed up at The Valley Patriot's 20th Anniversary Charity Bash on March 26th while the order was still in effect.

Kelly and her husband Donald (Aka Debo Brown YO!) walked past the open door of Duggan's party while he was giving out scholarships at the Relief's In, in Lawrence, and sat at the bar with Jackie Marmol knowing that when the scholarship night is over every year, the after-party is always in the bar.

"She was trying to put me in jail. If someone hadn't come and told me they saw her walk in, we all would have gone to the bar after like we always do, and she would be on the phone with the cops saying I was harassing her and violating the order," Duggan said that night.

When a hearing was held on April 1st, to determine if Duggan was a danger to Frazier, she was a no-show and Judge Zaino dismissed the harassment order.

Frazier appeared hours later asking for reconsideration because she was late, but Judge Zaino denied that request.

COMING TOMORROW

After the dismissal, Duggan published a story on The Valley Patriot website detailing how Frazier used a harassment order in New Hampshire to try and stop his expose of her actions as a city employee in Lawrence. But, hours after posting that story on Facebook under the heading "Coming tomorrow the story Kelly Frazier tried to stop you from seeing", Duggan was served with another harassment order alleging all the same facts that had already been dismissed twice. This time Frazier actually admitted in writing that she only filed the order because of Duggan's news story saying "he put lies on me".

During the hearing on that harassment order Frazier told the court that she was also in fear of her life because "he put lies on me and accused me of stealing $3 Million dollars from the homeless.

The homeless population in Lawrence are violent, they are criminals, and they are mentally ill. I'm afraid they are going to attack me because of what Duggan said.◊

Lawrence Homeless Coordinator Kelly Frazier Tried to Steer $200K in Fed Funds to her Own Non Profit

Convicted for Insurance Fraud, "Debo" is President of IVCS Non Profit

Lawrence's embattled homeless coordinator, Kelly Birchall Frazier was caught by city officials trying to steer $200,000 in Federal ARPA grant (American Rescue Plan Act) money to her own non-profit while her city department oversees and/or administers those grants, and while she was already being paid by the city to provide services to the homeless

Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan has been investigating Frazier since learning last June that she applied for the federal funds for her own non-profit called IVCS (International Veterans Care Services) which oddly enough is not "international."

Documents obtained by The Valley Patriot show that not only did Frazier attempt to funnel $200,000 in federal ARPA money to her own non-profit IVCS through her public job in Lawrence, (at the expense of other non-profits) - but according to her own application she also attempted to and/or succeeded in obtaining $52,000 in state aid to her IVCS non-profit.

What's more, Lawrence State Rep. Francisco Paulino fought for IVCS to get a $1M appropriation in this year's state housing bond bill. That $1 Million appropriation for IVCS was rejected by the state senate and taken out of the state's bonding request.

IVCS HAS NOT FILED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

According to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, non-profits in Massachusetts that receive and or spend more than $50,000 are mandated to file what are called 990 Financial Disclosure forms in order to solicit funds.

The Valley Patriot spoke to two different people in the AG's office who stated emphatically that IVCS had not filed the disclosures going back to 2019 when it was formed.

Non-profits need to file these disclosures so that the public knows exactly who is getting paid by the organization, how much money they raise, who donated the money, and what the donated money is spent on.

According to Frazier's own grant application to the City of Lawrence in 2023, she listed a $52,000 grant award by the state, which would mean the non-profit is mandated to file the disclosures. To date she has not filed.

IVCS APPLICATION INITIALLY APPROVED

Economic Development Director Awilda Pimental (Frazier's boss) initially approved Frazier's non-profit application for federal funds and sent the funding request to the mayor's office for approval.

After Mayor DePena signed off on the allocation, it went to the Lawrence City Council for a vote which passed, along with a batch of other non-profits slated to get the federal funds.

But, according to federal law, city councils must vote twice (at two separate meetings) on the disbursement of all federal funds that come though the city before funds can be disbursed.

ANOTHER CITY EMPLOYEE REJECTED

On July 18, 2023, the Lawrence City Council met to vote a second time on the ARPA grants for local non-profits.

During that public meeting, Mayor DePena's special assistant, Octavien Spanner told the council that two non-profits slated to receive federal money were run by city employees and constituted "a conflict of interest" or at the very least "the appearance of a conflict."

The first was a non-profit with bogus paperwork submitted by Mayor DePena's campaign manager Belgica "Lynette" Perez who was hired to be the city's domestic violence coordinator at the police department.

Her "non-profit" was listed as an organization to help victims of domestic violence, which some say was an attempt at double-dipping. She also listed the wife of City Councilor Gregory DelRosario as a board member without even asking or informing her, and her non-profit wasn't even legal until after she applied for the money.

The Valley Patriot reported on that story last August.

FRAZIER GRANT APPLICATION REJECTED

The second non-profit taken off the list by Octavien Spanner was Kelly Birchall Frazier's non-profit IVCS.

"There were two organizations where two city employees were involved with those organizations (applying for federal money)," Mayor DePena's special assistant Octavian Spanner told the Lawrence City Council on July 18th.

"The staff at the Office of Planning and Community Development called to our attention that there may be conflict-of-interest issues, or at the very least a suspicion of conflict of interest concerning the two city employees."

According to records (minutes) of that July 18th meeting, Kelly Frazier's IVCS non-profit was the second of the two organizations that Spanner was referring to at the public meeting.

"We brought it to the attention of the City Attorney, and the City Attorney indicated that the best way to deal with the issue was to ask those two individuals (Perez and Frazier) to contact the (state) Ethics Commission and request an answer to the questions of conflict of interest, and return with an answer," Spanner continued.

Spanner said that Perez's application was rejected and added, "We did receive a response [on the] second applicant (Kelly Frazier) that submitted and received a letter as well from the Ethics Commission, and so their application was also rejected."

2nd BITE AT THE APPLE

Even after being called out by the mayor's office and rejected for federal funding for her own non-profit - while Frazier is the homeless coordinator - Kelly Birchall Frazier wasn't done trying to funnel federal dollars to her own IVCS organization.

In August, just weeks after being rejected, records and emails obtained by the Valley Patriot show that Frazier applied a second time for the same amount ($200,000) for the same project, using the same information and simply submitting the documents that were previously rejected.

"She did not, however, provide a letter from the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission clearing her of the conflict-of-interest issue," Spanner said of the second application.

When another member of the mayor's staff told her she was not going to be considered for the grant without an ethics letter clearing her of the conflict-of-interest issues, her organization sent an email to the city withdrawing the funding request.

IVCS PRESIDENT A CONVICTED FELON FOR INSURANCE FRAUD

Despite not being "international," Frazier's non-profit "International Veterans Care Services" lists on their corporate filings at the Secretary of State's Office that Kelly Birchall Frazier is the CEO of IVCS, but also that her husband Donald Frazier as the president.

"There's a nepotism issue here as well," the mayor's aid told the Valley Patriot last year. "She's the CEO, her husband is the president, I think everyone sees what's going on here."

Kelly abd her husband Donald Frazier live in Salem NH, Donald goes by the "street name" of "Debo Brown" and was convicted of insurance fraud in a scheme where he and his wife Kelly Birchall Frazier staged car accidents in Lawrence.

Police arrested Kelly Birchall Frazier but because she cooperated with police she was not charged.

"Debo Brown," (Donald) however, refused to cooperate and after his conviction was given a gift by the judge in that case who waived jail time as long as he didn't violate the terms of probation and didn't commit any more crimes.

But shortly after that generous sentence, Debo violated his probation and was forced to serve a year in prison.

POPPIN' AND CRACKIN'

Despite living in a white neighborhood in Salem N.H., both Debo and Kelly Frazier are routinely seen attending and speaking at public meetings in Lawrence,

IVCS: PAGE 16

FRAZIER'S IVCS GRANT APPLICATION

BUDGET INFORMATION

Proposed budget for FY24 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024) and FY25 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025). Funding will be divided into two fiscal years equally.

Requested Project Funding: $200,000.00

Other Project Funding: $ 52,000.00 state

Total Project Funding: $

ABOVE: Page 4 of the IVCS application for Federal Funds showing the $200K she tried to get, and listing $52K received from the state

If you answered "YES" to any of the above, the Mayor's Office will review to determine whether a real or apparent conflict of interest exists.

Name of Organization: Ivcs

Name of Applicant's Authorized Official: Kelly frazier

Authorized Official's Title: CEO

Signature of Authorized Official: Kelly Frazier

Date: 5-18-23

ABOVE: Page 7 of the IVCS application for Federal Funds showingt that it was Kelly Frazier herself who applied for the money not someone in her organization as she later claimed.

Audits of YouthWorks and CommCorp

IN YOUR CORNER with AUDITOR DIZOGLIO

Hello Valley Patriot readers,

July was a busy month for the Office of the State Auditor! We have released five audits as we continue to inform taxpayers like yourself on how our dollars are being spent.

Among the reports released was an audit of Commonwealth Corporation, also known as CommCorp. CommCorp is a workforce development agency overseen by the state's Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD). The agency provides professional development, education, and partnership opportunities to support communities and employers.

CommCorp is responsible for the administration and oversight of YouthWorks, a state-funded program that, through training and paid temporary work opportunities, helps young people in Massachusetts communities find and retain employment. This is a great program and our audit team looked at areas where improvements should be made to better the services and programs being provided.

Our audit found gaps in the collection and analysis of employment outcome data related to participants in YouthWorks program. Without proper employment outcome data for participants, YouthWorks and CommCorp cannot thoroughly evaluate the impact of the program. We certainly want to ensure the program offered is meeting its goals and serving its purpose. So this is an important part of the process to ensure youth are being positively impacted and tax dollars are being spent wisely and efficiently.

We made several recommendations for improvements to help the agency better function on behalf of taxpayers.

YouthWorks is an important program that has positively impacted over 3,500 young people across the Commonwealth and we want to see this program succeed. So, we will be following up in the coming months to ensure our recommendations for improvements were implemented. We look forward to continuing to work alongside of you to help make government work better.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to provide feedback to our team, please feel free to contact my office via email at auditor@massauditor.gov or by phone at (617) 727-2075. If you're ever in the State House, please feel free to visit our team in room 230!

Yours in service, Diana ◊

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HEART OF THE VALLEY ~ Catie's Closet

Katie Cook
VALLEY PATRIOT CHARITY COLUMNIST

Catie's Closet is a tribute to the life of Catie Bisson, a passionate young lady who loved life, her family and education. As a teenager, her time spent in the hospital helped her to understand barriers that might keep kids away from school. Catie felt strongly that education should not be a privilege, and all children should find love and support in their school systems the way that she did.

Catie's Closet is a non-profit organization that sets up free stores in schools, giving children direct access to everything they need to attend class confidently. These stores provide easy access to clothes, toiletries, and other basic essentials that students might not have access to at home.

Her immediate family opened their first closet in Lowell. The response from the school and children was overwhelming. So, the whole family stepped in to help open 142 closets in 11 gateway school districts around Massachusetts. They have 3 major distribution centers in Dracut, Boston & East Long Meadow. They do all of this with only 22 employees, so they are grateful for their over 400 volunteers!

The guidance counselors, teachers and other administrators can identify a child who may require access to these resources. The closet services students from pre-K up to senior year. It is so much more than just a closet to pick out clothes. They have become safe spaces where their time, one-on-one with a staff member, is an opportunity to learn more about the child's specific needs and struggles. Administration can better supply support services, which helps keep the kids coming to school. The Catie's closet team wants to see children running towards schools not just for education but as a path out of poverty.

Catie's Closet also supports social service agency partners to fill the clothing needs of children transitioning between stable living conditions, including those who are homeless, moving into foster care, newcomers to the United States, fire victims, and survivors of abusive situations with their urgent Response SOS packages.

In my interview with CEO & Auntie Mickey I was able to identify a few super easy ways for you to contribute to this amazing organization.

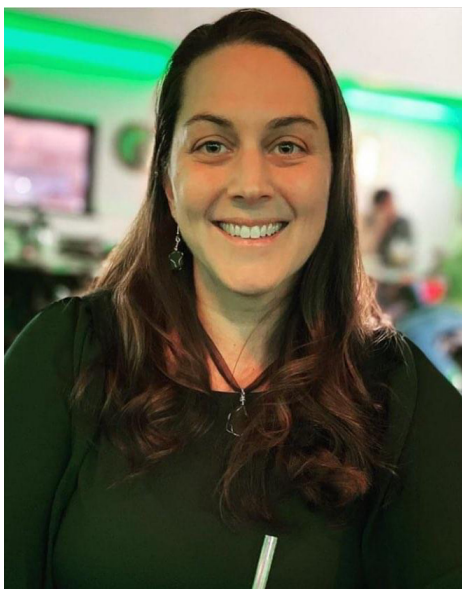
You can give your time!

Each Closet has a Closet Champions, and they are a critical part of the students' experience. Closet Champions help manage school closets by visiting their assigned closet once a week/biweekly during school hours to make sure it is clean, well-stocked, and organized. If items are needed, the Closet Champion submits an order to the Distribution Center staff. After the team fills the order and delivers the items to the school, the Closet Champion returns to restock the closet. They currently have 10 open positions in the Merrimack Valley. They will train you to ensure you are comfortable with the position. It's a very flexible schedule, volunteers can choose their hours, Monday to Friday, during the school day. Most volunteers spend one to two hours a week.

You can also volunteer your time at the distribution center to help sort and process donations. With the guidance of their team, volunteers help sort and organize the clothing and toiletry items according to their triple-check standards. This is a great opportunity for a team building event.

You can give clothes and toiletries!

They accept items that are appropriate for children attending school. All items donated should be free of excessive wear, rips, stains and any inappropriate sayings or gestures. Currently their biggest need is for boys' youth sizes 5 to 18 and youth toiletries. There is a donation box in front of the Dracut distribution center. Or if you have a large collection, reach out and you may qualify for a pickup. Check out their website for a full list of items they take for donation.



You can host a drive!

Looking to rally your family, friends, co-workers or community to support local students? Their team will provide you with all the material you will need including customized flyers, collection boxes and pick-up of the product! All you will need to do is advertise and collect!

The big project they are working on

CHARITIES: PAGE 23

MARCOS DEVERS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
16th Essex District
Lawrence / Methuen

"EXPERIENCE IS NOT IMPROVISED"

He has been one of the leaders of the committees of Transportation, Labor and Workforce; Children, Family and People with Disabilities, and Redistricting of Electoral Districts.

His years of service from his leadership positions in the State House have helped and continue to help maintain and increase the resources our communities receive. Health and safety, education, housing, economic development, and employment.

HE WILL CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE, SPONSOR, AND VOTE FOR BILLS AND AMENDMENTS TO:

- Maintain and expand public safety by supporting our men and women in the police and fire departments.
- Provide better services to our veterans.
- Repair our infrastructure: highways, bridges, streets, and sidewalks.
- Expand health services emphasizing resources for mental health.
- Provide opportunities for development and progress to our young people.
- Improve conditions in our public schools and universities.
- Provide funds for services to the elderly.

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State House Progress for 2024

Estela Reyes
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

It is officially summer for the Massachusetts Legislature. Session came to a close on the morning of August 1st after all-night debates among the House Representatives and Senate. I am proud of the progress made this session by my colleagues, my delegation team, and myself as a first-term representative. With many different opinions, constituencies and experiences mixed together in the legislature, coming to one concise decision is no easy feat. I look forward to continuing where we left off when we meet again.

The bills that were signed into law by Governor Healey include: the revenge porn and coercive control ban, gun reform, IT bonds, salary transparency, and the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. Legislation awaiting action from the Governor at the time this was written includes: the parentage equality act, veterans reform, and the housing bond bill.

Let me go into greater detail on the bills that were passed so we know what to anticipate. The revenge porn and coercive control bill, H.4744, prohibits revenge pornography by closing a past loophole. Massachusetts, typically a driver of progressive law, is the 49th state to enact this legislation. H.4744 also addresses the coercive control of abusers. Massachusetts was overdue to enact these restrictions. I am glad they are now law.

The gun reform bill is a result of two years of conversations, testimony and debate. The bill takes measures to protect the public against the ongoing threat of gun violence by cracking down on ghost guns, which are unregulated and untraceable firearms. Tighter restrictions on these illegal weapons aims to lessen their presence in our communities. This reform also prohibits carrying guns on school grounds, polling locations, and government facilities.

The IT bond bill, H.4889, authorizes over $1 billion in bonding and millions in federal funds to go towards health and human services. As society progresses and relies more on artificial intelligence, it is important to have foresight with regulations to ensure it acts in favor of our greater safety and well-being.

The salary transparency bill states that employers with over 25 employees must include the salary range in a job posting. Having the wage visible from the start prevents employers from offering a different salary to individuals for any number of reasons. I support this legislation as transparency remains a top priority of mine.

The FY25 Budget is vast and includes funding towards many areas of need. With the sum being $57.78 billion, a slight increase from the last, Massachusetts is geared up to make important advancements. I am proud to see many local and regional organizations included in the budget, especially the ones I advocated for, for the 4th Essex District.

As you may notice from this list, there are still critical pieces of legislation which were put on hold due to discrepancies between the House and the Senate. Major bills that I was hoping to see pass include: the economic development bill, maternal

health bill, clean energy, and hospital oversight and reforms. Although not signed into law by the morning of August 1st, these bills are not forgotten and it is possible we see their contents brought up during informal sessions.

Ensuring that accurate and reliable information be available to voters remains a priority of mine. Please reach out to my office at estela.reyes@mahouse.gov if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. As always, thank you for your attention. ◊

Creating Safer Streets and Empowering Our Community: A Call to Action

Francisco Paulino
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 16TH ESSEX

Dear friends and neighbors,

Last month, a concerning incident on Route 110 highlighted the urgent need for improved pedestrian safety in our community. An employee of Pleasant Valley Farm, owned by the Bonnano family, was struck by a vehicle while crossing the road. Thankfully, the injuries were minor, but this incident serves as a stark reminder of the dangers that pedestrians face daily.

The employees at Pleasant Valley Farm cross Route 110 multiple times each day, and the frequent near misses they've experienced emphasize the need for action. Crosswalks exist to protect pedestrians, but they require drivers to remain vigilant and respectful. It's essential that our roads are safe for everyone, whether they are heading to work, school, or simply moving through our community.

To address this issue, I have reached out to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to explore solutions that can enhance safety on Route 110. During a recent visit to Andover, I observed the crosswalk lighting system installed at Merrimack College, which significantly improves pedestrian visibility. I've proposed implementing a similar system here to prevent future accidents. We must act now to ensure that another incident does not occur.

Legislative Progress: Protecting Our Firefighters

In addition to our local safety concerns, I'm pleased to report significant legislative progress at the State House. Recently, we passed a crucial piece of legislation aimed at protecting our firefighters by eliminating PFAS chemicals from their turnout gear.

PFAS, known as "forever chemicals," pose significant health risks. Removing these substances from firefighter gear is an essential step in ensuring the health and safety of our first responders. As a member of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, I have been a strong advocate for this legislation. Our firefighters risk their lives every day to protect us, and they deserve the best protection available.

This legislative victory reflects our commitment to public safety and environmental responsibility. I extend my gratitude to all who supported this cause, and together, we are making meaningful strides in safeguarding those who protect us.

Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders

While we focus on enhancing safety and supporting our firefighters, it is equally important to invest in our future by empowering young entrepreneurs in our community. The youth of Methuen and Lawrence are the future leaders and innovators, and supporting their ambitions is vital.

This summer, young entrepreneurs like Avery and her sisters, known as the Gibbs Girls, have launched their business, Gibbs Girls Tropical Lemonade, on Thornton Ave. Their entrepreneurial spirit and determination are inspiring examples of the potential within our community. Similarly, Caroline, another young entrepreneur, is running a lemonade stand to achieve her

goal of attending a WWE match.

Supporting these young business ventures goes beyond financial investment; it fosters essential skills like financial literacy, customer service, and teamwork. By backing these young entrepreneurs, we are nurturing the leaders of tomorrow.

A Historic Step: Making Community College Free

One of our proudest achievements this legislative session has been making community college free for all Massachusetts residents. This initiative is more than a policy change; it's a monumental step toward ensuring equal opportunity and access to education for everyone in our state.

By eliminating financial barriers, we are opening doors for countless individuals who can now pursue higher education without the burden of tuition costs. This decision will empower more people to gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's competitive job market and make meaningful contributions to our community.

I am proud to have been part of the team that pushed for this change, and I am excited to see the positive impact it will have on students in Methuen, Lawrence, and across Massachusetts.

The Apprenticeship Hub: Connecting People with Opportunities

PAULINO: PAGE 16

Honoring Ann Vandal's Lasting Impact in Dracut

EYE ON DRACUT

By Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

Congratulations are in order at Dracut Town Hall. After a 40-year career in municipal finance and government, Dracut Town Manager Ann Vandal is retiring this month. It's the perfect time to reflect on the remarkable impact she's made in Dracut over the years, her exceptional municipal finance skills, and her exemplary tenure as town manager.

Vandal's retirement is noteworthy: It marks the end of an era defined by financial acumen, unwavering integrity, and a commendable ability to navigate through unwarranted criticism. Her departure leaves Dracut with a legacy that will be felt for years to come, showcasing her commitment to progress, transparency, and resilience.

As town manager for the last four years, Vandal has been through a lot and has gotten a lot done – and the town and the people of Dracut are a lot better off because of her leadership.

Before she was hired as town manager, Vandal had served in various roles at Dracut Town Hall for more than 15 years, including town accountant, finance director, and assistant town manager. She'd also served as interim town manager twice previously, before being hired permanently by selectmen.

When Vandal took over the top job at town hall in 2020, she did so in a tough environment. She was hired by a divided board, after the previous town manager was shown the door and politics had polluted the search process for a new manager. She inherited and cleaned up a town procurement scandal. She was forced to deal with all the ramifications of the pandemic on town operations, employees, and citizens.

Despite the circumstances and a multitude of challenges, Vandal helped put the town in better shape than it has been in quite some time. Town finances are just one example. From the outset, Vandal was faced with the formidable task of managing a town with intricate financial needs and a complex budgetary landscape. She was up for the challenge. Vandal's knowledge, skills, and experience when it comes to municipal finance helped ensure that every dollar was spent wisely and every investment was made with long-term benefits in mind. Under her stewardship, Dracut saw enhanced fiscal stability, the completion of many infrastructure projects, and a strong cash reserve fund to help safeguard against future economic uncertainties. Vandal's approach was grounded in a clear vision that balanced immediate needs with future sustainability.

It wasn't just her valuable financial expertise that benefited Dracut, it was Vandal's honesty and integrity that set her apart. In a job that often requires making tough decisions and dealing with contentious issues, Vandal remained completely transparent. Her openness about recent financial challenges, her candid discussions about budgetary constraints, and her willingness to address concerns head-on were hallmarks of her leadership. This commitment to integrity earned Vandal the respect and trust of many, even as she faced criticism from those who misunderstood or disagreed with her decisions.

Make no mistake about it: Ann Vandal navigated a tidal wave of unwarranted criticism from a few negative voices in our community who make a lot of noise—and she did so with grace, fortitude, and restraint. Vandal's critics, driven by personal grievances, failed to recognize that every choice she made was done so with a commitment to the town's overall welfare and stability.

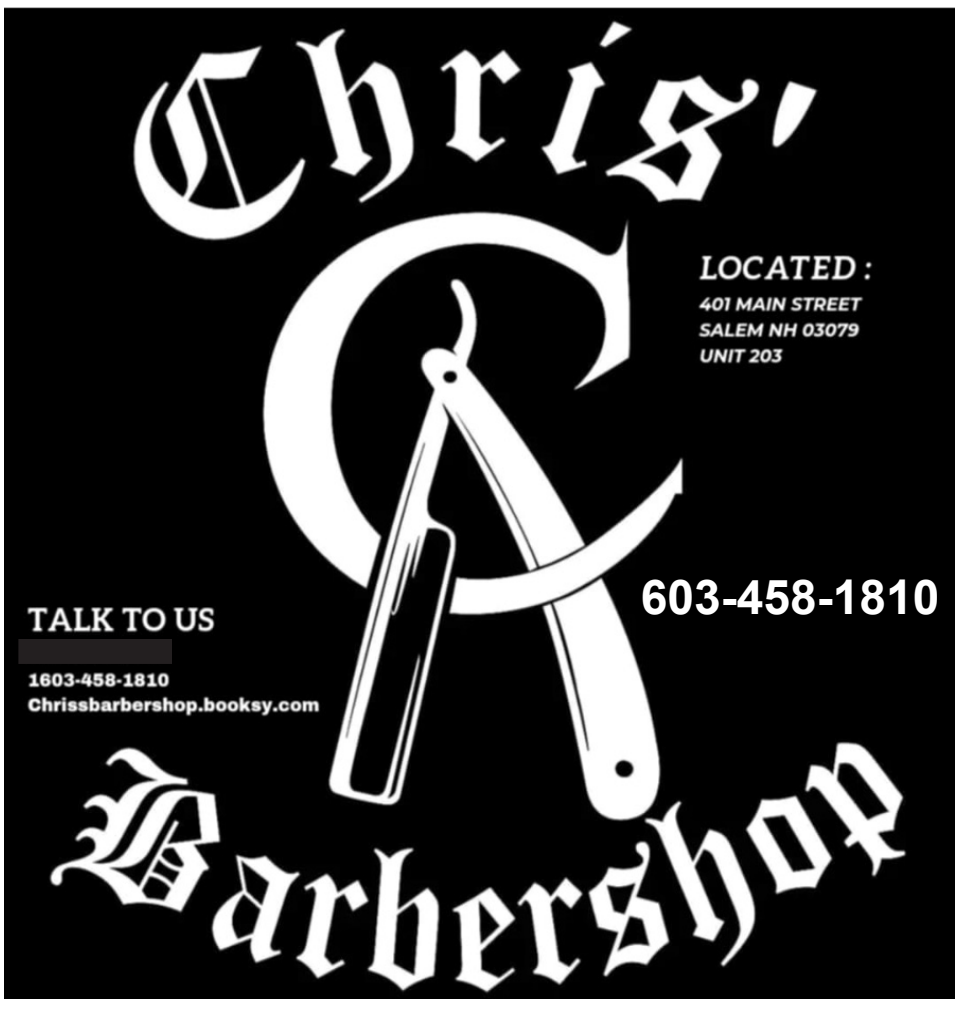
Handling criticism with grace, Vandal remained steadfast in her duties. She addressed concerns with transparency, engaging with critics, and providing clear explanations of her decisions. Her ability to stay focused on her goals, despite the negativity, is a testament to her professionalism and resilience. Vandal understood that leadership sometimes means making tough choices that are not always popular but are necessary for the greater good. Rather than being deterred by negativity, she stayed focused and kept the town's best interests at the forefront. Vandal's strength of character was integral in maintaining the town's trust and ensuring that her leadership was defined by substance rather than distractions.

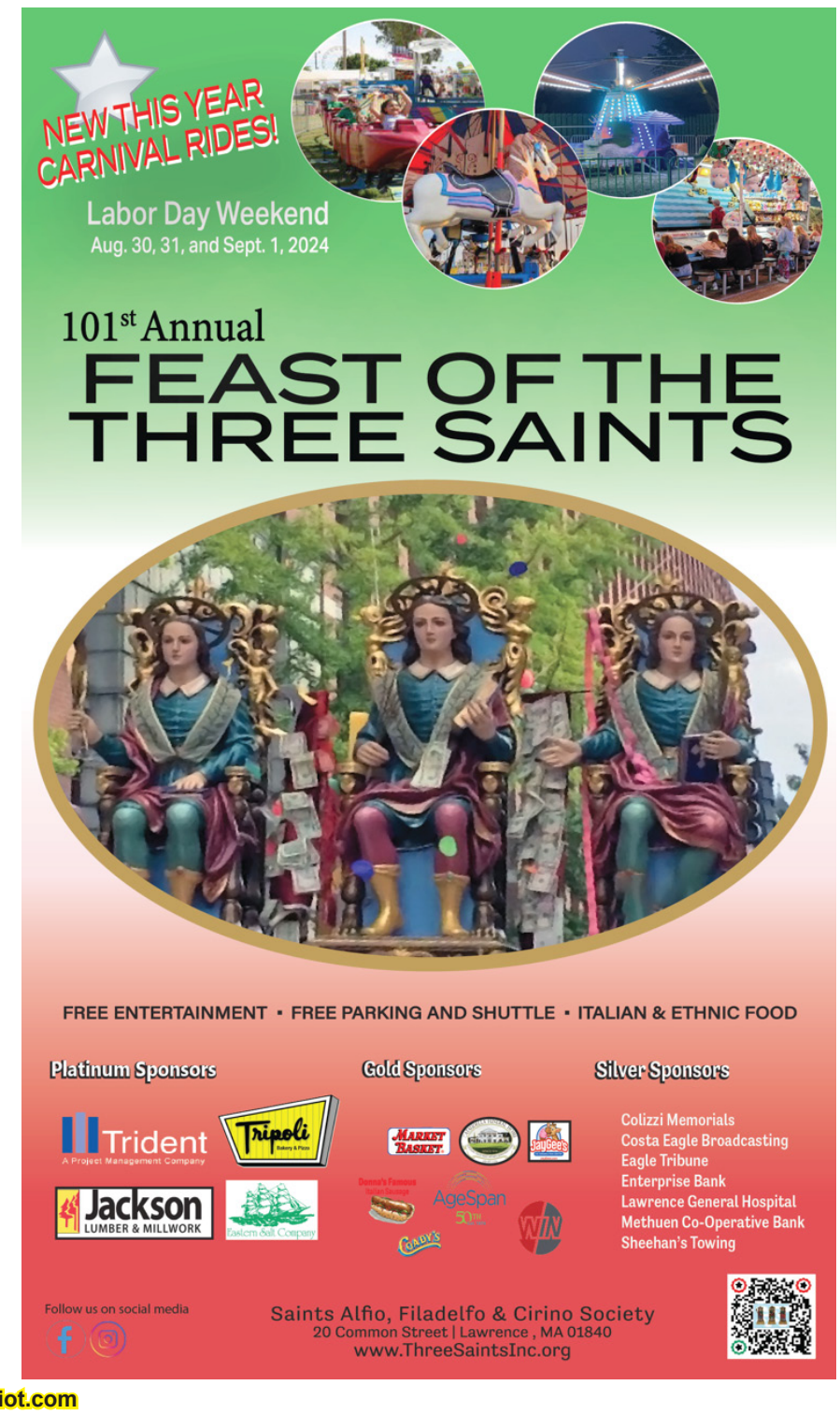
Vandal's unwavering dedication to her job and our community is a reminder that effective leadership often involves navigating through adversity while remaining true to one's principles. Her legacy is not just in the numbers—though they certainly tell a story of fiscal responsibility—but also in the way she handled challenges with integrity and perseverance.

As we prepare to bid Vandal farewell to enjoy her retirement, let us extend our heartfelt thanks for her years of service and celebrate her many significant contributions that will be remembered and appreciated for years to come. We owe her a debt of gratitude for her dedication, honesty, and resilience.

Thank you, Ann, for everything. Thank you for your dedicated leadership. Thank you for your spirit of community. Thank you for making a positive and lasting impact on Dracut.

--Brian Genest is the producer and host of Eye On Dracut, winner of the Hometown Media Award for News, sponsored by Lucky Oil. ◊





Lawrence Continues Summer/Fall Paving and Signage Plan

This week, the City of Lawrence is making progress on its ambitious paving and signage plan, an initiative aimed at renewing and improving the condition of local streets. The project, which began in April and will continue through November, is designed to address both pavement wear and road safety concerns.

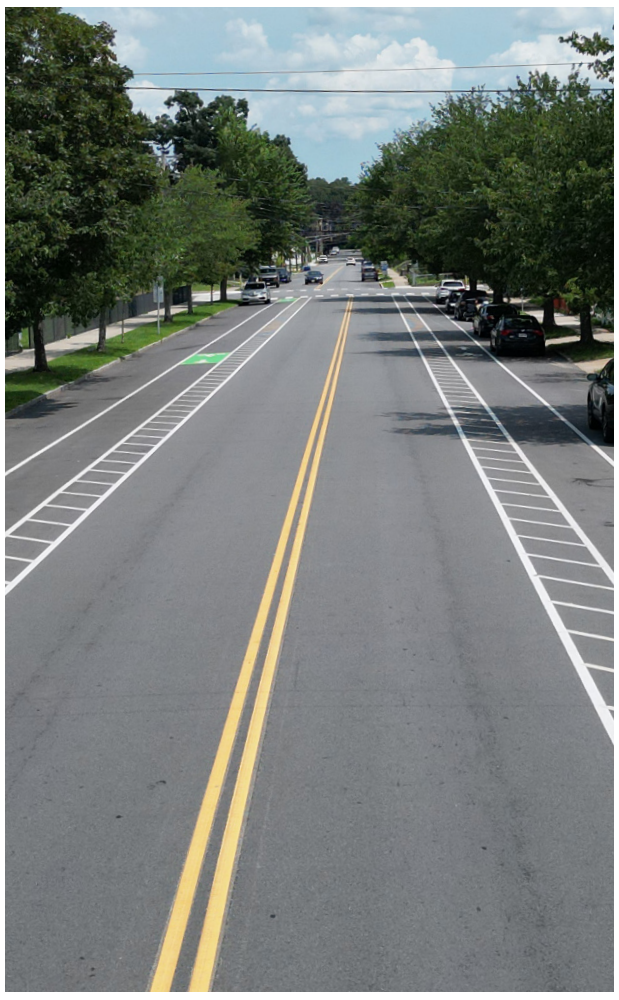
Mayor Brian DePeña announced that additional resources will be allocated to the paving plan, and efforts to modernize the city's infrastructure will be expanded to ensure that roads are safer and more accessible for all residents. Along with repaving, improvements to signage will be implemented, including the installation of new traffic signs and updates to existing ones, with the goal of optimizing traffic flow and ensuring the safety of both pedestrians and drivers.

City Public Works Director Jorge Jaime noted that while these projects may cause some temporary inconvenience, they are necessary to ensure the long-term quality and safety of the roads. Residents can expect traffic closures and detours in certain areas throughout the duration of the project.

In the coming days, the city will publish a detailed list of streets scheduled for work, allowing residents to plan their travel and minimize disruptions to their daily routines.

Mr. Jorge Jaime,
Public Works Director

The Department of Public Works is available to address any questions residents may have about these projects. The city administration appreciates the community's patience and cooperation during this period of improvements.



City of Lawrence
Brian A. DePeña, Mayor

Department of Public Works (DPW)
Mr. Jorge Jaime, Public Works Director

Legislative Accomplishments This Session

Ryan Hamilton
STATE REP., HAVERHILL/METHUEN

Serving as State Representative for the 15th Essex District continues to be an immense honor, and I am proud to highlight a series of legislative accomplishments from the 2024 session.

These accomplishments include improvements and commitments to education, healthcare, housing, veterans' support, local governance, and sustainable infrastructure.

Education Initiatives: I have been and will continue to advocate for student mental health and support services. I co-sponsored House Bill 465, which establishes comprehensive school counseling programs, ensuring that students receive necessary mental health support.

Additionally, I introduced House Bill 494, which focused on providing mental health professionals in public schools. These measures aim to create supportive and nurturing educational environments for all students, and I am hopeful for the differences these strides will make.

Healthcare and Public Health: I sponsored House Bill 172 in the healthcare sector, enhancing hospital care for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities. Furthermore, my office introduced House Bill 3912, requiring automated external defibrillators in sporting facilities and stadiums, thereby improving emergency preparedness and potentially saving lives during critical moments. I am looking forward to the advancements these two bills will encourage.

Housing and Veterans' Support: Addressing housing affordability and support for veterans, I pushed for House Bill 1320 to promote housing cooperatives, offering more affordable housing options for residents. I also worked on House Bill 2822, expanding property tax exemptions for veterans, recognizing their service, and easing their financial burdens.

Local Legislation for Methuen: Demonstrating my dedication to local governance, I proposed House Bill 2547 and House Bill 2548 address the reinstatement of positions according to seniority and adjust the maximum age requirement for police officers in Methuen, respectively. These bills are tailored to meet the specific needs of the Methuen community.

Local wins for Haverhill: I secured funding for Cogswell ArtSpace and Haverhill Inner City Boxing, amongst other significant improvements for the city.

Transportation and Infrastructure: In collaboration with Representative Vargas, I advocated for the electrification of the Haverhill line of the commuter rail system through House Bill 3459.

This initiative promotes environmentally friendly transportation options, reducing carbon emissions and

improving the overall sustainability of the region's infrastructure.

These legislative efforts reflect my unwavering commitment to the well-being and advancement of my constituents in the 15th Essex District. I will continue to work diligently to address the pressing issues facing the community and I look forward to furthering these initiatives in the sessions to come. ◊

Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena Supports Marcos Devers For State Rep.

What a difference two years makes. Two years ago, incumbent State Representative Marcos Devers was defeated in the Democratic Party primary by Mayor Brian DePena's hand-picked candidate, Francisco Paulino.

Paulino, a tax accountant and local business owner spent tens of thousands of dollars of his own money into the campaign as he appeared side by side with Mayor DePena, and members of the DePena team at public events.

Mayor DePena held signs for Paulino, endorsed him on radio programs, held fundraisers, and even spent money from his own campaign account to send out mailings to Lawrence voters just to make sure they knew Paulino was a part of the DePena team.

That was then, and this is now.

Within weeks of defeating Devers and taking office as the new state representative, however, a split began to form between the mayor and the new state rep.

The two were often seen having heated arguments in public, while in private, supporters on both sides said the conflict between the two was unbearable to watch.

Now, Lawrence Mayor DePena has extended an olive branch to Marcos Devers and is no longer supporting Paulino, "this time I will stand with Marcos" DePena told The Valley Patriot.

"I don't like to make mistakes," the mayor was overheard saying at a recent fundraiser. "But, I did make a mistake. I made a big mistake. Marcos was a great representative for the people, he will do what is best for the city and we need him back in that position. I need someone I can work with, someone who understands (that) we do this for the people. It's time to give the City of Lawrence back to the people, and Marcos will help me do that."

For his part, Rep. Paulino has several city councilors endorsing him and working on his campaign. Councilors Vivian Marmol, Stephanie Infante, Jeovanny Rodriguez, and Fidelina Santiago are all on the Paulino support team.

Rep. Paulino has long contended that he won the last election on his own and could have been successful whether he had the support of Mayor DePena or not.

This year the voters are going to find out once and for all if that is true.

Just as it did two years ago, the heated race for the 14th Essex State Rep. race is of primary concern for Lawrence Mayor Brian DePena and his detractors on the city council. The election is Tuesday, September 3rd. Whoever wins this primary will take office in January as there is no republican in that race. ◊

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The Honor Bear Project

KANE'S KORNER

KANE
VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT/COLUMNIST

Kane had the pleasure of meeting Kim Hebert and her celebrity Honor Bear today. Kane often sees Kim and the Honor Bear at several veteran events he attends. In fact, the Honor Bear is cool enough to ride on a motorcycle. The Honor Bear is quite sacred and too important for Kane to touch even though the honor bear is actually full of stuffing.

Kane admired the Honor Bear from a distance since he serves as a memorial to numerous veterans and first responders. You see the honor bear wears with pride several dog tags, ribbons, pins, and reminders of our local heroes, military and first responders that have passed. He carries with him the memories of local heroes whose names are so important to say, and lives are important to remember and celebrate. Kim said, 'when you carry the Honor Bear you are representing the lives of the veteran and first responder lives lost.' As Kim said," it's like the Honor Bear invites people to tell me about their veteran."

Kim started carrying the Honor Bear in 2016 a few years after the death of Marine PFC. Eric D. Currier who was killed in action on February 17, 2010 in Afghanistan. His family was a close friend spanning back to elementary school. Eric Currier Memorial pin was the first to be added to Honor Bear as well as Army SPC Justin Rollins, USMC CPL Brandon Garabrant, and Army SPC Ryan McDermott. In 2021 The Honor Bear Project became a non - profit agency.

So, Kane asked, "how does the Honor Bear work its magic. "Well people ask, Tell me about the Bear. The overall response is people wish to connect to and be part of the mission to have a visual description of our heroes lost.

Gold Star families have provided pins and medals important to them to be placed on the bear so it may be displayed for the community to see. Although Kane thinks he has a busy schedule, the honor bear travels to cemeteries to visit local heroes, attends veteran fundraisers, veteran motorcycle rides, and military and first responder ceremonies.

The Honor Bear project also brings veterans and first responders together at no cost to them on fishing trips. During 2024, over 200 veterans and first responders have participated in the chartered fishing trips. Kim explained that the trips are an opportunity for individuals with shared life experience to spend the day together and connect. This provides a welcoming and safe environment for collaboration.

Kane learned that the Honor Bear Project currently displays 4 Suicide Awareness Flag Displays. The flags represent the number of veterans and first responders we lose to suicide each month. At each site Kim and her team display 660 American Flags to represent the number of veterans we lose to suicide each month, 1 large American flag to represent the 40 plus Active Duty, national guard, and reservists each month, and 5 large flags to represent the 120 first responders we lose each month to suicide.

These displays not only honor the service of these heroes, they provide a visual representation of suicide awareness in the community. Each flag represents a person who is no longer here that deserves to be honored and remembered. Besides the flags, there is a banner letting you know what the flags stand for. The suicide crisis hotline is also on display. Kane wants

you to know that the crisis hotline number is 988 for help.

Kane ended his meeting with Kim admiring the Honor Bear. It is amazing that the Honor Bear displays more than 100 of the heroes' names. What is important is to remember and honor how they lived. Donations can be mailed to: the Honor Bear Project, PO Box 7225, Laconia, NH 03247. Venmo is also an option @The- Honor- Bear.

Kane Peaslee, Columnist Valley Patriot ... Woof ◊

Project 2025 More Fear Tactics From the Democrats

Lenny Mirra
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Let the fear mongering begin. With Joe Biden's debate debacle firmly in the rearview mirror, and presidential candidates pretty much set, both parties are now embarking on smear campaigns they hope will scare voters away from voting for the opposition.

For Democrats it's doomsday predictions about how Project 2025, a policy initiative put out by The Heritage Foundation, will turn the US into a fascist, dystopian nightmare centered around Christian nationalism. But what's really in it?

Some of it is run of the mill conservative policies like increased military spending, a secure border, increased enforcement of immigration laws, mass deportations and construction of a border wall. But it also includes policies that even this conservative finds troubling like its fixation on reproductive rights and reversing a 24-year-old approval of abortion pills like mifepristone.

It also takes aim at federal agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the people who provide weather forecasts and severe weather warnings. There's much to debate about P2025, but voters would probably feel better about it if Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts wasn't quoted in a podcast saying that the nation is "in the process of the second American Revolution, which will remain bloodless if the left allows it to be."

But here's the thing: Trump has disavowed having anything to do with it: "I know nothing about Project 2025. I have no idea who is behind it. I disagree with some of the things they're saying and some of the things they're saying are absolutely ridiculous and abysmal. Anything they do, I wish them luck, but I have nothing to do with them."

A far troubling set of policies, that's not being discussed at all, is the platform from the DSA or Democratic Socialists of America which boasts over 200 members in elected office including Congress. The group openly states "we are socialist because we share a vision of a humane social order based on popular control of resources and production, economic planning, equitable distribution, feminism, racial equality and non-oppressive relationships."

Among their many ideas is to "defund the police by rejecting any expansion to police budgets or scope of enforcement while cutting budgets annually towards zero, end investment in police training or facility renovations, free all people from involuntary confinement, and stop all funding of prison expansion, and close local jails."

I'm sure this will have voters feeling safer!

They also want to pass reparations legislation and put in budget lines for reparations at municipal, state, and federal levels. If you're worried about how we're going to pay for all that, fear not, the DSA claims to "fight for the abolition of capitalism and the creation of a democratically run economy that provides for people's needs." Apparently, they want to "nationalize and socialize institutions of monetary policy, insurance, real estate, and finance."

They plan to bring this new political order "through a second constitutional convention to write the documents of a new socialist democracy." Read those words again, and then consider how the news media is fixated on P2025 but haven't even mentioned the existence of the DSA or how their members include congressional members Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, Jamaal Bowman, and Cori Bush.

Also missing is any comment from Kamala Harris about her opinion on

the DSA and their platform. Jamaal Bowman, of fire alarm fame, just lost his primary and will be looking for a job soon, so will Harris hire him if she were to win in November?

If elected, Harris will be the most far left president in this nation's history, voters should know where she stands on DSA policies and news media should give it just as much attention as Project 2025. ◊-

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Protecting Democracy?

Kevin Dube
CHAIR, NORTH ANDOVER GOP COMMITTEE

For many years now Democrats have claimed the only way to "protect our democracy" is to stop President Trump at all costs. They have compared President Trump repeatedly to Hitler and have assured us that another Trump presidency will result in the end of democracy both here and globally. This incendiary rhetoric came to a head on July 13th when an assassin came within a millimeter of ending President Trump's life. A momentary turn of his head was all that prevented the end of the life of the democratically elected presidential nominee of the Republican Party.

Throughout the primary season the Democratic Party made sure President Biden was the only candidate that could secure enough delegates to cinch the nomination. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and others, wished to challenge President Biden, but the DNC made sure neither RFK Jr., nor anyone else, would be able to secure sufficient delegates to become the nominee. Democracy, apparently, is too important to be left to the voters according to the Democratic Party.

This is how we "protect our democracy" by making sure only one candidate, the chosen candidate of the party insiders, could possibly become the nominee? If President Biden were truly the best candidate, and the choice of the people, then why not open the primary? Republicans certainly did. Nothing prevented anyone from mounting a primary challenge to President Trump in 2020, and in fact Massachusetts own former Governor Bill Weld did just that. In the current cycle no less than 6 candidates took on President Trump for the Republican nomination. The Republican primary was wide open and the RNC made no attempt to limit the participation of any candidate. The challengers participated in several debates to state their case to the voters. President Trump emerged victorious, securing his delegates democratically, by the will of the voters, against all these challengers.

A scant eight days after the aforementioned attempt on President Trump's life, President Biden, the anointed nominee of the Democratic Party released a letter stating he was no longer seeking the nomination. Shortly after the letter was released Biden's X account formally endorsed Kamala Harris as his replacement. For the better part of a decade Trump supporters have been derided as cultists. However, it is truly amazing how quickly the democrats got in line behind Harris. Once the die was cast, it didn't take long for every prominent Democrat, and their media allies, to get in line behind this newly coronated successor to Democratic nomination throne. Within 48 hours Vice President Harris had secured sufficient delegates to become the party nominee. Massachusetts Democrats such as Elizabeth Warren and Maura Healey helped lead the charge. They quickly let us know that only Kamala Harris, the woman who dropped out of the 2020 Presidential Primary before a single vote was cast, and who has never had a single delegate elected in her name, can save our democracy!

Not everyone is buying this new narrative. One of the most interesting, and vocal challenges to the ascension of Vice President Harris has been Black Lives Matter. BLM was instrumental to getting Biden elected. As soon as he was in office, he completely snubbed them.

On July 23rd BLM released a statement on Kamala Harris securing enough delegates to become the Democratic Nominee. In their statement they present the following damning arguments:

"Democratic Party elites and billionaire donors are attempting to manipulate Black voters by anointing Kamala Harris and an unknown vice president as the new Democratic ticket without a primary vote by the public. This blatant disregard for democratic principles is unacceptable."

"We do not live in a dictatorship. Delegates are not oligarchs. Any attempt to evade or override the will of voters in our primary system—no matter how historic the candidate—must be condemned."

BLM's statements have been echoed by many others outside of the Democratic leadership and their corporate media allies. It should be obvious to anyone that the manner in which the Democrats have chosen their nominee is completely antithetical to "protecting democracy." Rather, to even the most casual observer, this is little more than a ploy by party elites obsessed with maintaining power at all costs.

Come November 6th, if you truly want to protect democracy and preserve our Republic you cannot vote for whomever the Democrat Party insiders and elite have coronated. Rather, your best option is to vote for the candidate that has withstood the rigors of the democratic process to arrive on the ballot, and that candidate is President Trump.

All politics are local. If you are unhappy with the way things are going here in Democrat supermajority Massachusetts, please drop me a line at northandovergop@gmail.com and get involved! ◊

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PAULINO FROM PAGE 8

In collaboration with my colleague, State Senator Pavel Payano, my office has been working diligently to establish a new pilot program called the Apprenticeship Hub. This initiative will create an office located between Lawrence and Methuen, serving as a central resource for the entire Merrimack Valley.

The Apprenticeship Hub will be a place where anyone in the Merrimack Valley can learn about and apply for apprenticeship programs available throughout the state. By connecting individuals with hands-on training and education opportunities, we aim to bridge the gap between education and employment, helping our community members acquire the skills needed for successful careers.

In addition to offering information and support for apprenticeship applications, the Apprenticeship Hub will coordinate tours and open house gatherings for the community. These events will provide valuable insights into various industries and career paths, fostering a deeper understanding of the opportunities available in our state.

The creation of the Apprenticeship Hub represents a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to empower individuals and strengthen our local economy. Together with Senator Payano, we are committed to making this resource a vital part of our community's growth and success.

If you're interested in learning more about the Apprenticeship Hub, please contact my office at francisco.paulino@mahouse.gov

Together, let's work towards a safer, more prosperous community where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and succeed. By prioritizing both safety and opportunity, we can build a future that reflects the best of what our community has to offer. ◊

IVCS CONT. FROM PAGE 5

and doing podcasts on Lawrence city issues as if they were actually Lawrence residents living in the hood with a stake in the city's future.

Until recently Donald (Debo Brown) Frazier was a Lawrence city employee working for the DPW and has been rumored to return to the city payroll in the street department. His friends in city hall are still trying to get him back on the public dole like his wife, as he is currently unemployed.

SLAMMING THE MAYOR

When word spread last year that Kelley was trying to use her city position to get money for her own non-profit, she took to Facebook and denied it claiming people were *"putting lies on me"* and pointed to the fact that she received no funds in that year's fiscal budget - as if her failure to obtain the money was proof she never applied for it.

Frazier posted on social media using 'ghetto talk' to attack her boss, Mayor Brian DePena, whom she had previously shamed for being in the Dominican Republic during a snowstorm.

In her post to "da homies", Frazier pretended she was quitting her city job (which she never did) and taunted those who have long claimed she was using her public position to steer public funding to her own non-profit.

This, despite the fact that she told Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan that she only wanted the job in city hall so she could get a building for her IVCS, promising that "TMF will never get a building in Lawrence as long as I'm the homeless coordinator."

BOYIEEEEEEEE

"My question is where is the building and the funds that was supposedly given to my organization?" Frazier asked in a Facebook post after her attempt to get the federal money was thwarted by the mayor's office.

"Lies is what it was. But y'all ran with it. LMAO. And the only ones I feel bad for is the homies, this administration don't care ... yeah I said what I said. No one puts me to be silenced."

Jackie Marmol & Kelly Birchall Frazier at the bar in the Relief's In the night of the Valley Patriot BASH!

"Well, if she had succeeded in obtaining these federal funds," one city councilor said "it would have been at the expense of other non-profits who applied, just to benefit someone who campaigned for the mayor and works in the office that disburses those funds. That's just not fair to other non-profits and it looks terrible all around."

"Even if this whole thing was legit, how do you justify that to the voters? How do you defend giving $200,000 to someone who works in that office, at the expense of others who have no political influence?" While Frazier initially denied applying for the funds, she then claimed she didn't personally apply, and that someone else in her organization applied.

(See Graph Page 5)

Then she claimed that because she doesn't get paid from her non-profit, there was no conflict of interest. This, despite the fact that her husband Debo is still president of the organization.

"Bottom line, this is federal money and you do not fool around with the Feds," Octavien Spanner was heard telling a city councilor after the July 18th meeting.

"She didn't produce a letter from the Ethics Commission clearing her to receive the funds and so she's not getting the funds. Period."

The Valley Patriot has forwarded Frazier's applications and emails from her city job to the Inspector General's Office, the Attorney General, and FBI. ◊

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"Loving Democracy" Means Telling the Truth

Kenneth Willette
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

It is impossible to capture the epic failure of the Biden Administration into one defining moment for future generations to study. They could cringe at arguably the worst debate performance in American history. We could have students endure Secret Service Director Cheatle's infuriating testimony before Congress, after the near assassination of President Trump. Or the capstone of a dysfunctional administration may be highlighted by Biden's cryptic explanation of his departure from the 2024 race in a prime-time address, which could easily be mistaken for a purely self-aggrandizing campaign speech.

All these events point to a troubling crossroads of constant stonewalling before Congress and the American people, which has been aided and abetted by a mostly docile free press. Over the course of three and a half years, the actions of Biden and his minions have created a cascade effect, with wave after wave of gross incompetence-- both domestically and overseas.

Dissecting Biden's so-called 'for the sake of democracy' rant raises more questions than answers, mainly because Biden never gave a defining mea culpa—translated from Latin as "through my fault."

Is loving democracy deliberately avoiding primary contests in New Hampshire and Florida? Are you a guardian of freedom by announcing your retirement after the primaries have ended and no viable candidate can serve as an alternative beyond your anointed one? How about not revealing your true cognitive state, because basic math would tell your exact age on January 19, 2029, and yet you still intended to run up to the time of the debate disaster, and even thereafter.

How is democracy enhanced by potentially selecting the next Leader of the Free World via Zoom? Isn't that the very definition of backroom kingmaking? Why is it one day perfectly acceptable for Democratic leadership to threaten the 25th Amendment, yet miraculously now it is not necessary despite no improvement in Biden's cognition. Was Harris in on those constitutional crisis discussions?

Is his departure a brazen realization of Biden's underwater job approval rating, because a vast majority of the electorate was rejecting his leadership and the direction of the nation? You are essentially "Passing the Torch" when there is a house on fire.

America is a constitutional republic. Thank God and our Founding Fathers for the Electoral College, an independent judiciary and three branches of government as opposed to an English parliamentary system and a reliance on mob rule.

To say that the now resigned Director Cheatle was woefully unprepared to answer valid questions under oath to a co-equal branch of government would be the understatement of the century. It would be analogous to a kid saying to his teacher that the family dog ate his homework, only for a simple investigation to find out that there is no dog.

It is a very sad situation when a rare display of bipartisanship is present at a hearing simply based upon a split-second turn of President Trump's head, which prevented a likely kill shot.

The more I read about the epic lapses of security during that fateful Saturday afternoon rally, the more of a white-hot rage I am experiencing. The fact that more secret service agents were diverted that same day to protect the First Lady at a private fundraiser of only 400 guests versus an outdoor rally with over 20,000 attendees, raises grave concerns about the prospects of a fair election.

Trump hadn't officially announced his VP nominee. Imagine the complete chaos that would have ensued because Trump didn't receive Priority 1 protection and was suddenly assassinated. Considering the credible Iranian threat, what are we to surmise about the level of institutional hatred directed toward Trump by the Secret Service leadership, the FBI hierarchy and the upper echelons of the White House. Reverse the role players and what conclusion would you reach?

Unfortunately, professional indifference and potential criminal malice are not just reserved for Trump. Major Independent candidate Robert Kennedy, Jr., whose famous father and uncle were assassinated, has been repeatedly denied secret service protection— a national disgrace.

Trump was asked to limit his speeches to indoor venues, which is a shocking admission that the world's elite security apparatus is so demoralized and so undermanned that there is a bona fide risk to POTUS 45. The fact that Trump will return to Butler, Pennsylvania is a proud defiance in defense of free assembly.

But are we really surprised by the utter contempt that Cheatle publicly showcased, because it is common practice in the Biden Administration. Now we are hearing that VP Harris never really served in the capacity of a Border Czar. Sheepish media outlets have promoted that bizarre assertion, even though I have directly watched Biden declare Harris for that important position in a cabinet room press conference.

The author of the groundbreaking novel 1984, George Orwell, would have a field day writing about this blatant propaganda machine if he were still alive. In that book, Orwell goes into exquisite detail about the fictional totalitarian government's efforts to erase history.

But haven't conservatives been gaslit all these years about Biden's mental capacity, the alleged benefits of illegal immigration, the phantom foreign policy victories and the fairness of DEI policies?

Conservatives were called conspiracy theorists for questioning Biden's pauses in his speaking, his gait and his confusion of names, locations and events. We were labeled heartless about the flood of millions of illegal aliens, even though NBC News reported that major Democratic cities are now cooperating with ICE officials to detain and deport criminals here illegally.

Promoting sanctuary states is costing Democrats dearly in job approval ratings and draining billions from taxpayers. We were told repeatedly that illegals commit crimes at a lower rate than native-born Americans. But if you review the official DOJ data, at least 15% of our federal prisoners are classified as illegal aliens despite them being only 10% of the US population. That doesn't even account for the bait and switch of arrests without convictions to whitewash crime statistics.

Finally informing the public of the true damage caused by your harmful policies doesn't absolve you of responsibility. Especially so close to November! ◊

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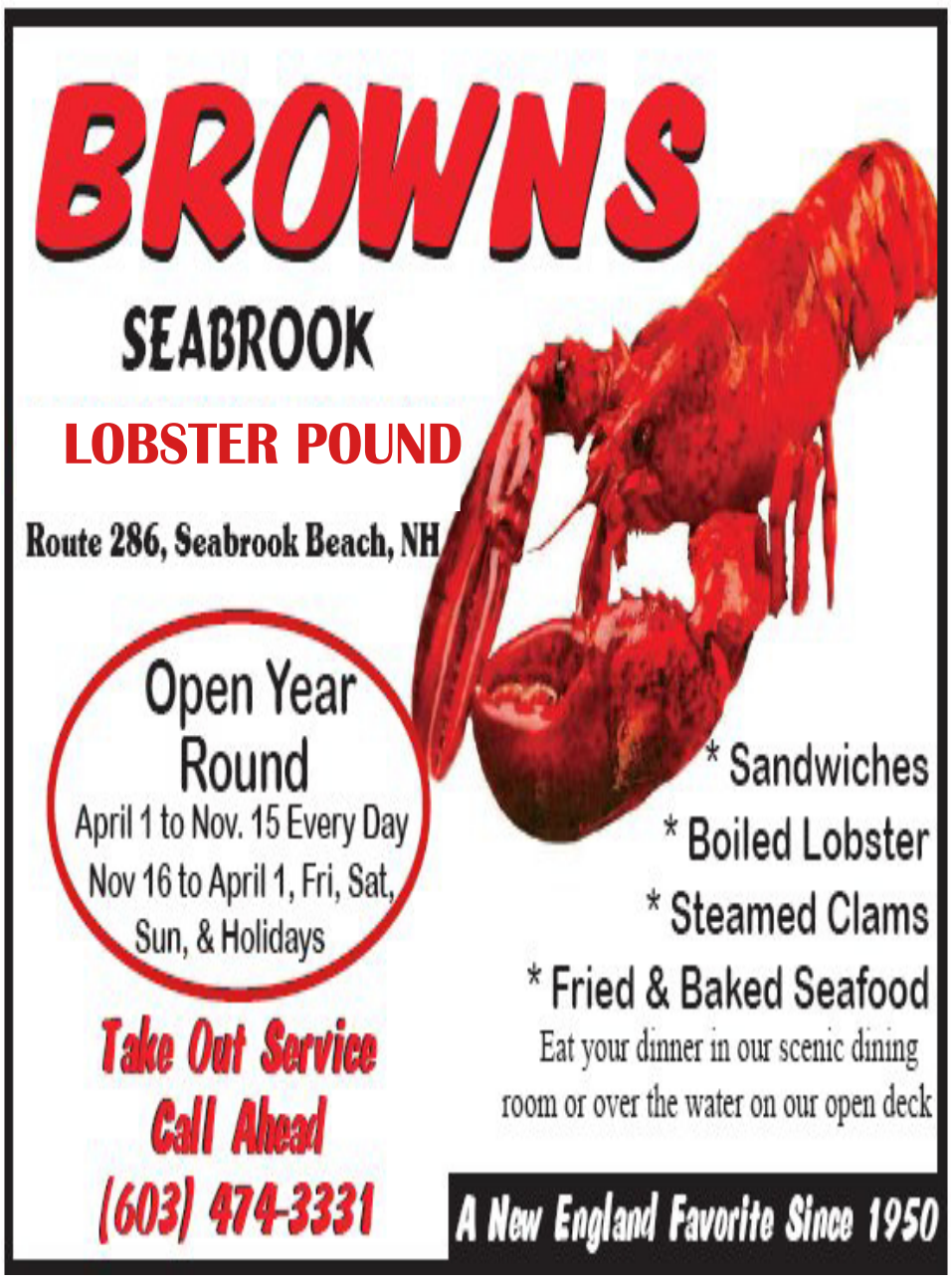

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

TOM DUGGAN LEGAL NOTES

During those last four months it is no secret that I have been under attack by a Lawrence public employee and her convicted felon husband Debo Brown in a desperate attempt to stop me from writing news stories about them.

Those efforts ultimately failed (see stories page 4 & 5).

During the criminal trial and several hearings that took place along the way, there were some really interesting tidbits that didn't make it into the news. So, my staff were taking notes during all of this so we could pass along to you the more interesting side notes that happened during this whole debacle.

OFFICER TOM DUGGAN Sr. WAS INDEED KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

During a hearing on Jun 24th in Salem, N.H. district court, Andover Attorney Peter Caruso was speaking to the judge and noted that "my client's father was Lawrence Police Officer Tom Duggan, Sr. who was killed in the line of duty in 1990."

Immediately Kelly Birchall Frazier yelled out of turn "That's a lie." Her mother Sharon Birchall of the Lawrence Airport Commission also stood up in the audience and yelled "that's a lie he was off duty! He's lying!"

So, for the record, according to the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial in Washinton D.C., the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Memorial in Boston, The City of Lawrence official records, the state of Massachusetts official records, and the federal government official records, as well as records at the Lawrence Police Department, State Police, and Essex County District Attorney's Office, Lawrence Police Officer Tom Duggan Sr. was indeed killed in the line of duty on March 16th 1990. His widow Pam Duggan received line of duty death benefits.

It takes a really sick and depraved individual to publicly desecrate the sacrifice of a cop who gave his life in the line of duty just because you don't like a member of his family. But that's the kind of people I've been dealing with since all this began, so nobody in the courtroom was surprised at all by their behavior.

THE LEGAL TEAM THAT WASN'T

Kelly Birchall Frazier's lawyer actually quit on her in the middle of a hearing on the harassment order she was trying to get extended in Salem NH District Court. Her lawyer quit because she was difficult to work with. The attorney told the judge that they had "irreconcilable differences" as Frazier wanted to call a number of witnesses that the lawyer felt were irrelevant to the case. So, not only does Frazier not have a "legal team" she doesn't even have a lawyer.

DEBO ATTACKS SALEM NH COPS

While Debo Brown and Kelly Birchall Frazier were at the Methuen Police Department on April 20th making up stories to have me arrested, they obviously didn't know that they were being recorded by the officer's body camera because they made a number of statement that they never would have made if they had. At one point Donald Frazier (AKA Debo Brown) told Methuen Police Officer Phalen that Salem N.H. police officers "have no f**cking balls" and "they don't do nothin' they're totally useless."

Given that the Fraziers live in Salem, N.H. this outrageous attack on the Salem police department was a little shocking to say the least.

SO MANY LIES ... LIKE NO STICKERS ON THE VAN

During my criminal trial last month Kelly Birchall Frazier stated that I should have known she had an office in the St. Andrews Church (located at 90 Broadway) because "when he pulled into the parking lot, he had to see the IVCS stickers and decals on my white van." Shortly after blurting out that little story on the stand, Andover Attorney Bob Lewin pulled out photos of the parking lot from the day in question and showed it to Frazier.

"Is that your white van?" he asked her. When she admitted that it was indeed her van, he then asked "so then please show me where the stickers and decals are on that van because I don't see any."

Frazier couldn't answer him, so Attorney Lewin showed the photo to the jury and said "how was Mr. Duggan supposed to see stickers and decals on a van when there are no stickers or decals on that van?

SHE CALLED TO BUY ADS?

Also, during the criminal trial, Frazier told another tale about how "Tom Duggan knew I had an office in St. Andrew's Church because I told him once when I called him to buy advertising."

Given the fact that Kelly and Debo have been boycotting this newspaper for the last ten years many people in the courtroom (on both sides) were shocked to hear her say such a thing. "So, you called Mr. Duggan to buy ads in his newspaper? Did you actually buy ads in his paper?"

"No," she replied to a murmuring crowd.

SO, ARE WE RELATED, OR NOT?

From beginning to end, Kelly Birchall Frazier couldn't keep her stories straight no matter what question she was asked. On her criminal complaint in Salem, N.H. she was asked how she knew me, and she did NOT check the box that said "related" she checked the box that said "OTHER" and wrote in the word "associate." But when she appeared before Judge Zaino in Salem District Court a month later she told him "We are related."

Yet, when she appeared on bodycam at the Methuen Police Station to file her bogus criminal complaint against me, she was asked by Officer Phalen how she knew me and she said, "my family knows his family."

So, which is it? Am I an associate? Are we related? Or do our families just "know each other?"

RETALIATING AGAINST WITNESSES

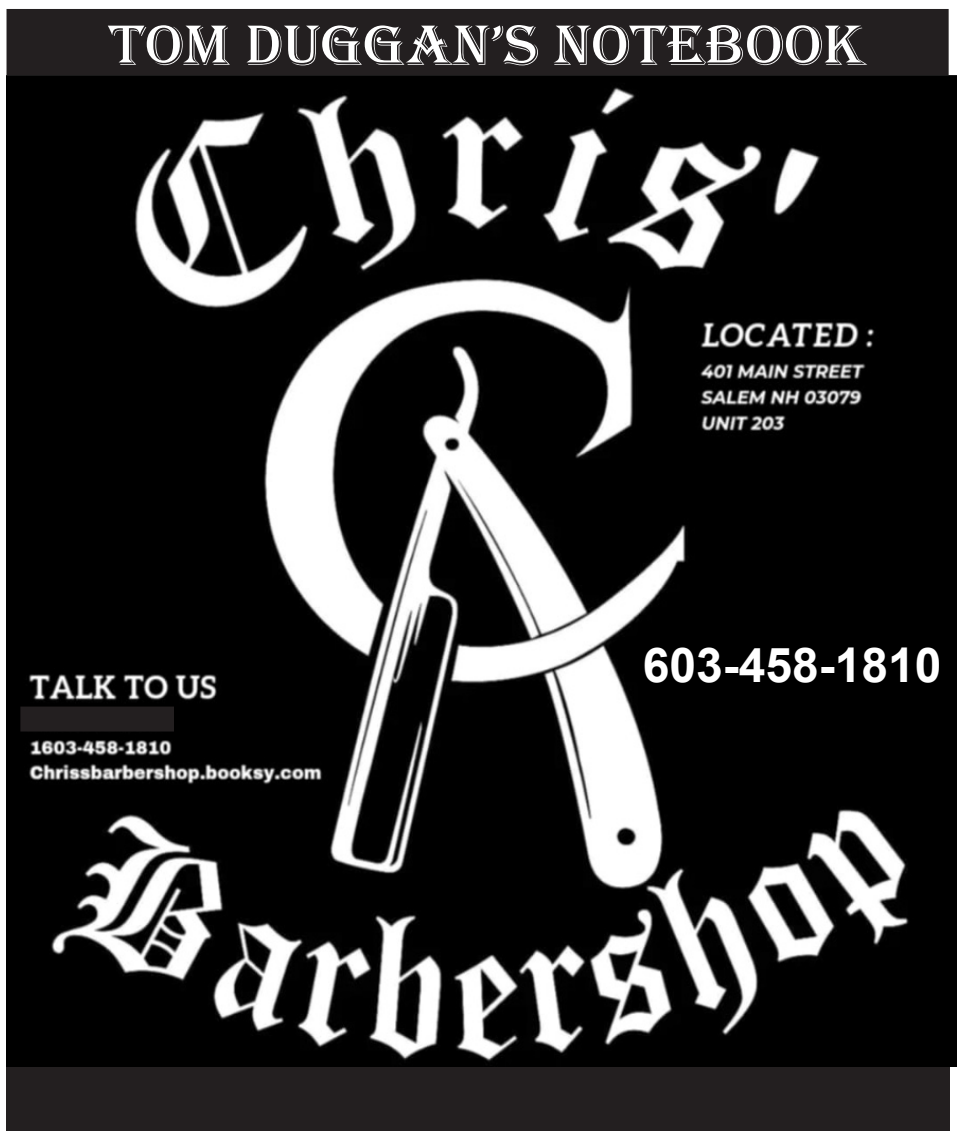
After the jury rejected the stories of Kelly Birchall Frazier in criminal court, she and her convicted felon husband Debo Brown went on Facebook and attacked one of the witnesses with speculation and innuendo. Debo posted that the most interesting part of the trial (not his wife being caught perjuring herself several times) was when a text message exchange was read aloud between me and Nora Higgenbottom.

During that exchange Nora stated please don't tell my father about the photo. Higgenbottom had sent a photo of the dress she was planning to wear at the wedding by mistake. She later stated that she meant to send the photo to her sister (or sister-in-law) but that portion of the text message was never read aloud.

This gave Debo the chance to publicly humiliate Nora Higgenbottom for testifying against his wife. Debo posted innuendoes on Facebook to make it look like Nora was sending naked photos and then insinuated that she was underage.

For the record, Nora Higgenbottom is

NEXT PAGE



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KELLZ - DEBO POPPIN' AND CRACKIN' AT THE METHUEN POLICE STATION

Kelly Birchall Frazier and her husband Donald Frazier (aka Debo Brown) seen filing police reports at the Methuen Police Station last month in a scheme to have Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan charged with a crime. Duggan was arrested based on the information the Fraziers gave police, but was found not gulty on all charges by a six person jury in Lawrence District Court on July 30th.

31 years old. The Higgenbottoms did go to the Methuen Police and file a police report stating they were being harassed and intimidated because Nora and her father were witnesses against them in court. Kelly and Debo also targeted Michael Gorman of TMF in retaliation for his testimony during the trial and have been showing up at TMF events to intimidate him since the trial ended.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE DUGGAN LIVES?

While Kelly and Debo were trying to get me arrested by filing complaints with Methuen Police Officer Kelly Phalen, they gave the officer my home address.

"How do you know that by the way?" the surprised officer asked. "Oh, because we had him served with court papers," Debo responded. Of course, they had to say that because it would have been pretty embarrassing if they had actually admitted that Debo was in my office in 2018 doing a podcast with me at my office desk where we were "poppin' and cracking" and mocking each other in good humor in an attempt to calm the hatred between both our supporters on Facebook.

Of course, Debo's word is worthless so he took to Facebook within a matter of days and violated the agreement by attacking my family again. But, it was interesting that he pretended they only knew my address because they had me served with court papers earlier this year and not that he had actually been to my office himself.

WAITING ON A CHECK?

Never passing up an opportunity to play the victim, Lawrence Homeless coordinator Kelly Birchall Frazier was recently taken to court by her landlord for nonpayment of rent of her hair salon. According to sources in the court Kelly told a wild tale about how she had sued me for defamation and slander and she would be getting a big check any day now, so if they just gave her a few more weeks she would be able to come up with the money for her back rent. She also claimed that her business at the hair salon had declined because "Tom Duggan put lies on me."

The truth is, the State Board of Cosmetology fined her $1,000 for operating without a business license and she didn't even have a license to cut hair. That probably had a lot more to do with why she has no business.

For the record, Frazier hasn't even filed a defamation suit against me or The Valley Patriot so it's laughable that she would tell people she's waiting on a settlement check any day for a suit that never existed.

SHARON BIRCHALL TO REPLACE CAMPAGNONE ON METHUEN COUNCIL?

With Methuen City Councilor Joyce Campagnone's health in serious jeopardy, word in Methuen City Hall is that Campagnone is not going to return to the city council table.

That means the council can either leave that seat unfilled for a year and a half or appoint the next person in line in the last election.

That person would be Kelly Birchall Frazier's mom Sharon Birchall who is currently a public official as she sits on the Lawrence Airport Commission. ◊

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THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Diet, Exercise, Weight Loss, Corrupt Dieticians

Dr. Piere Ghassibi
MEDICAL CONTRIBUTOR

Greetings.

I am at least thirty pounds overweight. I swim hard daily, then walk, then run, then lift weights, and I continue going to the dojo to practice Aikido and Kendo, my martial arts. With these exercises, after months, I managed to lose zero pounds. Zero pounds! But I am always very happy, calm and in great spirits. I am never tired. I am also very healthy. Thank God.

Well, it turns out that exercising a lot makes both body and spirit very happy. I love the feeling of excess energy and good spirits. I lost zero pounds though. This is the truth.

It turns out that we need far less calories to exercise or work hard than we think, far less. We continue to fear missing out on some nutrients, while reality is that what is killing us is the excess. A person doing a documentary on nutrition was refused interviews with our top dieticians when he discovered that they were bribed to exaggerate what our bodies' needs are, just to help the big food corporations market and sell their products.The hospitals are not teeming with patients suffering from protein and vitamin deficiencies, but with overfed people. We have been brainwashed and it is hard for us to change.

The treatment of obesity is exceedingly difficult. I have seen people regain all the weight after bariatric surgery. Nothing works well. Once our body uses, for example, 3000 Calories a day, it will fight us if we eat much less: we get nervousness, anxiety, fatigue, migraine, etc. I think the only way to lose weight is to not challenge our body too much and eat 2800 a day, be very patient and accept that weight loss will not happen before a year. Rarely have other methods worked in the long term. I think that the Ozempic craze will subside.

Vitamins are vital, but only in the way Nature has packaged them in food. Serious reliable research keeps finding vitamin pills and supplements useless in the normal person. Over the counter supplements are not regulated by the FDA and more than a few have caused harm. TV ads and our gym friends theories are not to be believed without researching the info.

To stay well, do these: prevent accidents, create a safe loving haven around you, exercise, eat a plant based diet, and get the recommended health maintenance and preventive services as advised by your doctor, NP or PA.

P. Ghassibi, MD
ghassibi@hotmail.com

Home Equity Theft is and Has Been Unconstitutional!

Because of the Supreme Court decision in Tyler v. Hennepin County, Massachusetts is now trying to get credit for what never should have been taken from property owners in excess of their tax debt – but Massachusetts has been getting away with violating the 5th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Massachusetts Declaration of Rights - Article 10.

Gov. Healey signed an attachment to the fiscal year 2025 budget banning municipalities from taking the entire equity in a home in the event of a tax-lien foreclosure but included a 3-year statute of limitations.

Sen. Mark Montigny said he first filed the bill in 2018 to protect homeowners from so-called "equity theft", the issue has grabbed more headlines following the Supreme Court's ruling almost a year ago. Massachusetts law Ch. 60 allowed a city or town to foreclose on a person's house to pay a tax debt, then keep the full value of the real estate beyond the amount of the debt. In April 2024 state Judge M. Callen ruled the Massachusetts law governing municipal home equity takings "requires Legislative correction."

On March 21, 2024, Pacific Legal wrote that "the Court held that home equity theft—when the government takes more than is owed when collecting a property tax debt—is unconstitutional."

But what about people like Gracemarie and Joyce Tomaselli, 2 seniors, who owned Registered and Recorded property at Salisbury Beach, who are not being given the same opportunity to be compensated by the Town of Salisbury for the town's home equity theft?

On July 5, 2002, the Tomaselli sisters handed over a check to the Town of Salisbury Manager in the amount of $15,492.04 to bring them current, to allow them to obtain their restaurant licenses to reopen Mangia … a Café-Restaurant on the property in dispute. The Town accepted the check but never cashed it. The Valley Patriot wrote about this on valleypatriot.com. They had difficulty in the courts in their attempt to remove incorrect tax charges, which went into land court for the tax taking $45,000 for the building and $5,000 for the marsh lot for sewer betterment/assessments that according to MGL Ch. 80 and Ch. 83 they did not owe, and excessive incorrectly calculated sewer user fees, plus 16% interest, and penalties imposed as "taxes" by the Town of Salisbury, plus the Town's attorneys' fees, etc. amounting to $251,000 in Judge Gordon H. Piper's Land Court decision. The Tomasellis tried many courts through the many years to correct the Town's extremely excessive and incorrect tax and sewer charges but to no avail culminating in a tax taking, and auction of their property. The Town prevailed to take Tomaselli's home/property using the courts and with the aid of the town attorneys who concealed relevant evidence and committed fraud on all the courts. The Town auctioned the Salisbury Beach property for $775,000.00 and didn't give them the remaining equity! This statute of limitations imposed by Massachusetts has cost the Tomaselli sisters approximately $524,000. A 3- year statute of limitations is unjust for an unconstitutional taking.

Enterprise Bank Feeds the Homeless at TMF

The management and staff at Enterprise Bank in Lawrence and Methuen were on hand last month with food and supplies at the TMF Family Dinner for the Homeless last month. THANK YOU ENTERPRISE!!

Dewey Club Gives Scholarships

Members of the Dewey Club in Methuen handed out thousands of dollar in scholarships last month to seven local high school seniors at their annual scholarship cookout. Back Row: Lucas Kelley, Andrew Trudel, Cameron Smith Front Row: Caroline Curran, Maggie Curran, Kiana McCormick, Jack Curran

Wardy Castillo Becomes an American!

Our good friend Wardy Castillo of Sheehan's Towing became a United States Citizen last month!! Congratulations Wardy WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!!

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CHARITIES: FROM PAGE 6

right now is Fill-A-Bus! From August 1st to September 30th communities come together to host clothing drives to help restock the distribution centers. They are looking for local businesses to host a donation spot. You host a collection for two weeks for new and gently used children's clothes and new toiletries. They supply you with the collection boxes and they can pick up all the donations to help fill the bus. This is a great opportunity for employee engagement through volunteer work.

Another team volunteering opportunity they offer is building confidence packs. Confidence packs include school packs, toiletry packs, back to school outfits and uniform packs. You as a group would collect or purchase the products needed and work with your team to package them together. They will supply you with a list of the items needed to fill these packs.

You Can Run!

The last week of September they host their virtual 5K. All proceeds from this event help buy new sneakers for children in need! The sign-up cost is $30

You can give Money!

Like every nonprofit of course, they are open to cash donations, but you can also find their Amazon wish list of products right on their website. These wish lists are divided into different regions so that your support can be going directly to your community.

$200 helps to create an SOS package for a child in need.

Each school costs about $25,000 per year to run. Their School Success Sponsor for corporations is an excellent way to contribute to your community.

If any of these interest you or you are interested in volunteering in any other capacity, check out their website www.catiescloset.org/ for specific details. ◊

BENEATH THE SURFACE WITH PAUL MURANO

The Disordered Idea to Eliminate 'Disorder'

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The latest 2024 Olympic controversy is emblematic of a much deeper problem in our society. Algerian boxer Imane Khelif is reportedly a chromosomal man who was raised female due to an underdeveloped reproductive system. After beating up an Italian woman in the boxing ring with two punches, his name went viral. Perhaps there is a sane minority who wonders whether women should be boxing at all and why men get pleasure out of seeing women beat each other up. And one may wonder why the IOC allowed Khelif to box with biological chromosomal women. But those are issues for another day. What I would like to focus on here is how we approach the deeper issue that led to this Olympic debate and other similar problems.

As is always the case, if you want to understand the prevailing ideology of the day, watch what happens to the language. In the past, people with ambiguous sexual biology were said to have Hermaphroditism. Then the term eventually changed to Intersex Disorder. More recently it has morphed into Disorders of Sex Development; and with the current Olympic controversy, we have now learned the newest iteration of the term is Differences of Sex Development (DSD). A similar language alteration occurred with descriptions of other disorders: Gender dysphoria used to be called Sexual Identity Disorder, and homosexuality was understood to be same-sex attraction disorder, before being normalized by political pressure from leftist elites.

See a pattern here? There is a concerted effort to avoid the word 'disorder'. Beneath the surface, this is a fundamental problem that marks our times.

This penchant to rid the language of 'disorder', perhaps partly out of misplaced compassion, points to a deeper problem. Eradicating from our minds the notion of personal disorder molds us to believe there is no natural order to human life, i.e., no common human nature shared by all, with objective ends and goods. It introduces the notion that it's everyone's job to define themselves, to declare one's own truth as we wish – and everyone else is obligated to accept their claims. How you 'identify' has become sacrosanct, not the truth of our being. The result of this is utter confusion and moral chaos.

Our personal disorders, however, whatever they may be, are not "natural to us". They are depravations, hurdles, that need to be overcome, and many people do a masterful job at this. Yet, without recognizing our common human nature, which enables us to see what is good and natural, the default position is to render disordered desires, especially those related to sex, as acceptable to act upon.

There is only one remedy against the movement to normalize disorder (what in any other time would have been considered cultural insanity): Regain the Judeo-Christian understanding that the human race is fallen and that every individual is disordered in one way or another. This is a simple truth. We all have imperfections, defects, and disordered propensities stemming from original sin. To run from this reality by eradicating 'disorder' from our minds only compounds the problem.

No question, some disordered propensities can be heavy crosses to bear. But our choice is trifold: We can deny them, give in to them, or accept their limitations and overcome them with God's grace. It is only in facing and living the truth that are we made free.

Paul Murano, Ph.D. is producer and host of Beneath the Surface videocasts, and the author of two books (available at Amazon.com). He has taught college philosophy & theology for over 15 years. Check out his Youtube channel at Youtube.com/Veritas3737, and website at Paulmurano.com, E-mail Paul at PJDM@aol.com

Property Sales, Foreclosures for JULY, 2024 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)

Northern Essex Registry of Deeds

M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

William Kurt MacNamara & Alyson Veneto, David Scott Sloan Tr & One Hundred Sixteen Abbot Realty Trust, $3,000,000, 116 Abbot St

Patricia M & Roger E Linnemann Jr, Marie E Reilly Tr & John Reilly Tr & Marie E Reilly Revocable Trust, $2,100,000, 41 School St

Todd S & Diana M Elliott, Tao Wu & Lingxuan Han, $1,950,000, 5 Alonesos Wy

Prerak D Shah Tr & Salina Shah Tr & Shah Realty Trust, Michael & JenniferTravalini, $1,890,000, 12 Carter Ln

Yi Ling Du & Jie Hu, Pankaj Yawale Tr & Rachana Pankaj Tr & Yawale Revocable Trust, $1,850,000, 56 Chandler Cir

Serenity Residental LLC, Family Run Properties LLC, $1,800,000, 204-210 North Main St

Eric & Sharon Langan, Eric & Meghan C Sachetta, $1,800,000, 10 Cobblestone Ln

Mark J Vieira Tr & Cheryl A Arbia Tr & Whittemore Realty Trust, Kristopher & Elizabeth Kavanagh, $1,665,000, 2 Whittemore Terr

Jo-ann E Newcomb, Maxim Tretiakov, $1,590,000, 12 Hemlock Rd

Richard C & Heather C Dodge, Lauren M Mentwich & Curtis W Wittman, $1,510,000, 21 Shipman Rd

125 Greenwood Road CBC LLC, Heather L & Nicholas A Felici Jr, $1,450,000, 125 Greenwood Rd

Noelle C Shofield Tr & Scholfield Realty Trust, Damien & Sara Shahdad Jourdan, $1,425,000, 12 Avon St

Scott W Duncan & Patricia L Davy, Joseph Ahdoot & Pamela Anderson, $1,408,000, 10 Worthen Pl

Mei Sun & Yuhui Shang, Anthony & Kirsten Dotson, $1,380,000, 20 Endfield Dr

Mary Lynn Joe Tr & Lim Family Realty Trust, Richard Joseph Conley & Kristine Conley & Jennifer Kristine Bradley, $1,350,000, 4 Blueberry Hill Rd

Neal K & Lisa A Long, Alexis Liakos, $1,300,000, 2 Ravens Bluff

Ciaran McGuinness & Francis L Walker, Adriano Salomao-Ioriatti & Samanta Brenegan Borges Ioriatti, $1,286,900, 10 Jenkins Rd

Timmy T Truong & Alice Vinh, Rahul & Kinjal Shah, $1,245,000, 47 Andover St

Wendy & Patrick Quinn, Sara Famiglietti & Nathan Belanger, $1,225,000, 124 Wildwood Rd

Stephanie Bobier Tr & Stephanie Bobier Trust, Kimberly Diamond, $1,200,000, 72 Osgood St

Charles A Wheeler III , Gary W & Erin A Ryan, $1,175,000, 6 Leah Wy Unit 6

Allen & Julie Ehling/Julie Campobasso, Ramy Baly & Ruby Khalaf, $1,150,000, 6 Sernity Ln

Diefei Yan & Connor Waskiewicz/Connor Scott Waskiewicz, Naman K & Monica N Soni, $1,138,000, 386 Lowell St

Ruei-Hsin Hsiao & Ru-Chiu Hsiao, Jie Chen & Xiaozhou Li, $1,070,000, 65 Osgood St

Michael J Meyers , Jonathan M Babiarz, $1,050,000, 416 South Main St

John T & Carolyn B O'Rourke, Susan & Martin W Connolly, $1,025,000, 96 Elm St

Lynda M Palermo Tr & JMP Nominee Real Estate Trust, Valerie J Duffield Tr & Valerie J Duffield Trust, $1,000,000, 47 Martingale Ln Unit 23

Gabriel E & Kathleen M Greeley, Wei Tian & Yiqi Guo, $990,000, 8 Serenity Ln

Therese A Reid Tr & Reid 2013 Family Trust & Family Trust & Suvivors Trust, Cayle Thompson & Joseph Sakakeeny, $980,000, 2 Cattle Crossing

Pankaj Yawale Tr & Rachana Pankaj Yawale Tr & Yawale Family Revocable Trust, Jeffrey R Harnois & Steven F Eliopoulos, $980,000, 6 Taylor Cove Dr Unit 3

David W & Susan B Bromberg Trs & Elinor J Bromberg Irrevocable Trust, Brian J Walsh & Caroline M Margolis, $915,000, 30 Lincoln Cir West

Mark A Keil & Elizabeth l Anderson, Lisa K & Jeremy Ryan McCann, $900,000, 148 Summer St

Amy C Jackson, Keegan J Ashley & Courtney S Leous, $850,000, 201 Highland Rd

Juris Veidins Tr & Austra Veidins Tr & Veidins Family Trust, Jane L & Edward F Davis III, $841,200, 30 Bailey Rd

Amy B Heseltine Tr & Kimberly A Heseltine Tr & 180 Elm Street Realty Trust, Victoria Elizabeth Muir & Christopher John O'Connell Jr, $835,000, 180 Elm St

Joseph & Regina M McGowan, Tawil N & Juan A Diaz, $828,900, 272 High Plain Rd

Deanna Carpinteri, Cynthia & Peter Murphy, $811,000, 21 Michael Wy Unit 36

Brenda Busta Tr & Brian Busta Third-Party Special Needs Trust & Brenda A & Thomas M Busta Jr, Neal & Mary Thompson, $775,000, 9 Brookfield Rd

Michela & Phillip Christopher/ Christoipher Matthews, Catherine M Schmitt Revocable Trust of 2013 & Catherine M Schmitt Tr & Michael P Schmitt Tr & Michael P Schmitt Revocable Trust of 2013, $729,565, 90 Haverhill St

Karen J Ratyna & Edward A Ratyna Jr Tr & Lauren P Salsman Tr & 29 Prospect Road Realty Trust, Remond & Kati Jacquet, $705,000, 29 Prospect Rd

Janet M Volker, Laura Gifford, $626,900, 13 Washington Ave

Neil Robinson & Susan K Sughrue, Andrew Noonan & Kelley O'Brion, $625,000, 13 Rattlesnake Hill Rd

Steven M & Elana B Kalucki/Elana Marks, Laura Jennings, $585,000, 6 Temple Pl Unit 6

Richard Walker Whitney, Nancy Shepherd, $535,000, 4 Temple Pl Unit 5

Mark A & Maria D Silvestro, Andrew Silvestro, $525,000, 9 Tessier Dr

Ephesus LLC, Scott & Daunne Miller, $520,000, 6 County Rd

William A & Irene T Bates, Kimberly Burk, $382,000, 6 Maple Ave Unit 1

Eric & Jacqueline S Daddario/Jacqueline S Lawless, Nazar Almuthafar & Zainab Alhakeem, $370,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 104

Christian Baker, James N Maggio Jr, $370,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 214

Andover Community Trust Inc, Alexander S Coray, $360,000, 26 Michael Way Unit 18

Armary LLC, Ashley E Bradley, $350,000, 4 Longwood Dr Unit 409

Jianwen Wang & Linlin Zuo, Sharmin & Musfiqur Rahman, $341,500, 8 Crescent Dr Unit 6

Kai Zhang & Wanning Jiang, Paul Andrew Tuscano & Paul Anthony Tuscano, $315,000, 237 North Main St Unit 5

Todd Matthew McGrain, Robert J Palmisano Tr & Robert J Palmisano Revocable Trust, $270,000, 20 Colonial Dr Unit 20-5

Richard Pfeifer Tr & Richard Pfeifer Living Trust & Lisa Corbett Tr & Lisa Corbett Living Trust, Elizabeth & Arkady Yanishevsky, $187,500, E-2 Colonial Dr Unit 6

LAWRENCE

Flo Properties LLC, Sarah Yasmin Tr & Ashraf Riaz Trust, $1,125,000, 71-73 Elm St

Robert H Minasian Tr & Jacqueline I Minasian Tr & Haigel Realty Trust, Arrowpoint Exeter LLC, $1,100,000, 16A Exeter St

Ann Lambert Tr & 67 Groton Street Family Trust, Santos Rina Lazo & Ariel Aguilluz, $931,000, 67 Groton St

Jorges A Flores & Daria Lebron, Francisco A Caceres Parra & Clare E Caceres, $860,000, 161-163 Spruce St

Marino DeJesus Lizardo Est/Marino Lizardo Est & Juana M Diaz De Lizardo/ Juana M Lizardo, Emelin & Yamil Sanchez, $810,000, 61 High St

Nicole E Guilmette , Cesar A Nunez & Raquel A Rojas, $800,000, 84-86 Jennings St

Felix A Acevedo , Mercedes Baez Anziani & Lidia M Anziani Baez & Narciso Baez Aybar, $786,000, 49-51 Fulton St

George M Deglaoui Tr & George M Deglaoui Revocable Trust, Richard & Dulce J Arias & Santa M Arias Lara, $735,000, 16 Saratoga St

Elba Garcia & Ramon Andrade, Karina Lebron, $735,000, 76 Newton St

Christine Fazio, 28 Woodland St LLC, $700,000, 28 Woodland St

Maria M Taveras & Manuel Eduardo Cruz, Hung Quach, $700,000, 122-124 Bunkerhill St

Jose Manuel & Johnattan Lopez/Johnattan Lopez Gomez, Emilia Olivarez De Polanco & Leslie L Polanco Paulino & Maria Vargas Paulino, $643,000, 102 Greenfield St

Natividad Perez, Felix E Pena Rodriguez & Marina Fontanez, $610,000, 12 Warren St

Robert A & Donna A Cunningham, Stivaly Rodriguez Quezada, $600,000, 29 Crescent St

Timothy J & Evelynne J Kinsella, Robert Moore, $595,000, 29 Marique Dr

Kenneth C Keyser Tr & 173 Abbott Realty Trust, Frannys J Perez & Jonathan Perez Pena, $585,000, 173-173A Abbott St

Luz Oliver, Thelma Gomez & Danisha Aristy, $570,000, 61 Congress St

Adalgicia Duran & Nicolas Santos, Adrileidy S Vargas & Ceferina Gutierrez Moran, $550,000, 231 Ferry St

Jesus Gutierrez & Natalia Fernandez, Michael S Rodriguez Beras & Maria E Febles De Rodriguez & Natividad Rodriguez Donastorg, $550,000, 85 South Bowdoin St

Linda Depelteau & Audrey M Depelteau , Rafael A Guzman, $540,000, 291 South Broadway

Claire Cook, Raymond J Boutin & Jamie Gendreau, $500,000, 40-42 Bowdoin St

Bruce S Edwards Tr & Gordon Trust, John K McCormack, $485,000, 26 Beresford St

Naomy Triphany Rodriguez & Edith Hernandez & Ican Almarante/Ivan Almarante, Margaret W Mugo, $460,000, 176 Ferry St

Luis A Esmurria-Vega & Sonia N Flores, Nehemie Jones-Swaby & Patrick Swaby, $460,000, 86 Lexington St

Diverse Real Estate LLC, 148-154 Bailey St LLC, $430,000, 148-150, 152-154 Bailey St

John J Duggan Est/John Duggan Est & Joan M Duggan & Nancy O'Neil, Wilson Ortega & WF Solutions LLC, $430,000, 15-17 Rhine St

Evan R & Sandra E Shochat , 18-20 Broadway LLC, $407,000, 62-64 Irene St

Sharon A Mell, Joel Ortega & Jakira F Garcia, $400,000, 167 Emmet St

Justo & Valcireia Santana, Robert C Iacoviello, $390,000, 2-4 Marie Ln Unit 4

Magda S & Jean A Isaac , Manuel A Brito, $385,000, 246 Prospect St

Mehmet & Ayse Uguz, Marvin F Zapata Moran, $352,000, 11 Grove St Unit 2

John H Wazlaw, Prime Real Estate Investment LLC, $315,000, 122 Byron Ave

Freddy F Demorizi Frias, Felix A Bernabe Garcia, $280,000, 20 Knox St Unit 6

V Anthony Ansaldi Tr/Anthony Ansaldi Tr & Cameron-Bishop/Janton Trust, Dania Esther Alcantara Villaman, $260,000, 24-26 Inman St Unit 2

Jorge Colon Polanco, Betania Mena, $200,000, 274 East Haverhill St Unit 11

METHUEN

175 Pelham Realty LLC, MDR FL Realty LLC, $9,000,000, 175 Pelham St

Pamela Bruckman & Maurice Caruso, Untamed Dream Plaza LLC, $1,487,500, 369 Merrimack St

Christine M Saba Tr & Ronald W Parrino Irrevocable Trust, 17 Massachusetts Ave LLC, $1,400,000, 150-152 Merrimack St

Stephen J & Katherine K Gendron, Todd R & Adree T Johnson, $905,000, 82 Pine Tree Dr Unit 124

Hermel J & Nicole F Goulet, Shaheen Properties LLC, $900,000, 5 Coachman Ln

Mohua Sultana, Juan A Morales & Elsa M Morales Lopez & Luis Morales, $855,000, 4-6 Lawrence St

JR Builders Inc, Tenzing Nyima & Yangchen Lhamo, $849,900, 218 Hampshire Rd

Tae Saeng Yi & Sun Hie Smith, Joseph W Hayes, $800,000, 5 Sequoia Dr Unit 107

Wilson A & Noemi Jerez Geronimo, Britani T Languasco Benitez & Wander Languasco Benitez & Abigail A Languasco Cruz, $798,500, 156-158 Oakland Ave

Elizabeth M & Joseph H Luis, Erasmo Nunez & Patricia M Jorge, $770,000, 17 Stadium Rd

Brittany A Travano & Alexander Comeau, Hendry F Guaman Guaman & Lida M Charco Maza, $716,500, 25 Sawyer St

Rebecca A Newcomb , Ines S Perez Medrano, $713,000, 24 Pinedale Ave

Melissa Belbusti Tr & Dennis Family Realty Trust, Ronald H & Melaine T Mask, $710,000, 2 Hollow Tree Ln

Valdez Enterprises LLC, Jean J Jimenez, $700,000, 73A Milk St

Walter Arnoldo Guerra & Jennifer Elizabeth Guerra & Laura Nataly Molina Taborda, Jennifer Moore, $689,900, 30 Boornazian Rd

Elie G & Rosa G Najem, Richard & Reiner Garcia, $685,000, 50 East St

Stephanie F & John J Connor Jr, Carmen J Belen, $675,000, 385A Oak St

Robert & Jane Tremblay & Ann M Keleher , Pena Real Estate & Investments LLC, $675,000, 51 Lippold St

Karen E Henderson Tr & Karen E Henderson Family Trust, Janice S Tatarka, $670,000, 33 Herrick Dr Unit 88

Beth L & Dana R Whitmer, Richard Alomonte Ortiz, $660,000, 11 Hidden Dr

Cheryl L Spang, Clyo M & Scarlet Espinosa, $655,000, 673 Prospect St

Rafic & Aniece Saadi, Adline Calixte & Eliguens Burny, $652,000, 168 Cross St

Jenna R & David R Blanchette, Prabhat Raut & Isha Bista, $651,195, 19 Anderson Dr

Matthew A & Cheryl Murach, Nancy A & Thomas F Carey, $650,000, 389 Howe St

Kathleen M Carroll & Thomas J Carroll, Madison K Lebron & Victor A Lebron Carty, $650,000, 150 North St

Rafael Almando Gomez, Jaime Santangelo & Rosamaria Ruisi, $640,000, 35 Worcester St

Kenneth & Erin L Healy/Erin L Galasso , Wetiello & Djenane Morisset Alphonse, $640,000, 6 May Ct

Nancy D Heffernan Tr & Kenneth J Dillman Tr & Dillman Irrevocable Trust, Nicholaus Nycz, $636,000, 9 Hartung St

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REAL ESTATE: From 24

Sheryll Berberick, Renee & Maxime Theodule, $634,900, 4 Shirley Ave

William F Malley Tr & Mary M McGrath Living Trust, Tebei R Nombu Acha, $620,000, 16 Agnes Ter

Circle G LLC, Calvin Lee Harris Jr, $610,000, 35 Elmore St

Steven Michael & Kaylee Kupiec, Karen Brito & David Abreu, $585,000, 385 Howe St

Peter & Tammy Mandeville, Hector & Rosanna Morales, $565,000, 38 Olympic Village Dr

Debralee Arrigo, Andrew Gray, $565,000, 26 Alexander Cir

Judy F Keizl, Sreang Sok, $552,000, 15 Webb St

Thomas X & Eileen M Gormley, Dieufene & Cleona Sylvain, $550,000, 71 Myrtle St

Mark Lewandowski Tr & Lewandowski Family Nominee Trust, Rafael Paulino Almengo, $550,000, 289 Jackson St

Lynelle Schlesinger/Lynelle Taylor, Corinne & Matthew Picchiello, $546,000, 26 Huntington Ave

Clint McFarland , Andre & Brenna Marie Freitas, $526,000, 45 Pinehurst Ave

GH & CH LLC, Charbel Maroun Tr & Maroun Realty Trust, $520,000, 2 Booth Rd

Rosalina & Albert Vargas, Anton Y Zananiri & Indhira Sosa, $510,000, 211 Pelham St

James D Kleeberger, Flaldimar Alves Dos Santos, $500,000, 4 Russell St

Richard Andres Ceballos & Madeline Michel Ceballos Wilkinson, Ahmad Ali Abuissa, $495,000, 15 Fulton St

Eric M Levesque Tr & Julie A Levesque Tr & Levesque Family Revocable Trust, Lorena Esmeralda Chavez Aldana & Leidy Marleny Duarte Castaneda, $450,000, 25 Union St

Jeremy C Lug, Rosphalie Belfort Agenor, $441,500, 76 Ayer St

Jamil R Halaby Est & Effie V Halaby & Mitchell Halaby & Matthew J Halaby & Erika Halaby & Jamil R Halaby Jr, Effie V Halaby, $440,000, 97 Howe St

Elizabeth Ann Leonard & Elizabeth Stantial, Beau L P & Kelsey E Campbell, $427,500, 58 Riverdale St

Paul M Carter Est/Paul Michael Carter Est & George L Carter, Conor Smith, $420,000, 19 Tyler St

Michael Pratt Tr & William D Pratt Jr Est & Angela M Pratt Testamentary Trust, Makayla Kathleen Livingston & Christopher Andrew Saba, $420,000, 39 Simone St

Joseph A Sciacca Jr & Kathleen Ann Dobeck, Henry Gonzales & Eliezer Silfa, $400,000, 2 Bungalow Ave

Shailesh A Patel, Jitendrakumar Patel Tr & Ayers Village Realty Trust, $340,000, 4 Ayers Village Rd

Armen G Derderian Tr & Arthur A Derderian Tr & Madcind Trust, Catherine W Kamande, $335,000, 93 Pilgrim Cir Unit 93

Kim D Cao, Ann Lambert Tr & 67 Groton Street Family Trust, $320,000, 46 Ashford St Unit 15

Ruth M Rogers , Jose David Valdez, $300,000, 42 Ruskin Ave

Ashokkumar G Patel, Madhuben R Patel Tr & K & K Realty Trust, $260,000, 8 Arcadia St

Robert J Palmisano Jr Tr & Robert J Palmisano Revocable Trust, Cristin E Bowerman, $250,000, 61 Mystic St Unit 2

Robert J Palmisano Jr Tr & Robert J Palmisano Revocable Trust, Ramfy Castillo, $241,600, 61 Mystic St Unit 61-1

Frank Messina, Louis R Messina, $220,000, 15 Linwood Ave

Starter Realty Management Inc, Rechdan 61 Mystic Street Methuen LLC, $220,000, 61 Mystic St Unit 8

U S Bank Trust NA Tr, Citadel Asset Management LLC, $216,000, 44 Gaston St Unit 44

Robert J Palmisano Jr Tr & Robert J Palmisano Revocable Trust, Oscar A Galvez Rincon, $213,300, 61 Mystic St Unit 61-5

Starter Realty Management Inc, Rechdan 61 Mystic Street Methuen LLC, $175,000, 61 Mystic St Unit 11

Starter Realty Management Inc, Rechdan Mystic Street Methuen LLC, $175,000, 71 Mystic St Unit 14

Starter Realty Management Inc, Rechdan Mystic Street Methuen LLC, $175,000, 71 Mystic St Unit 5

James V Piemonte Tr & Jamie H Piemonte Tr & J & J Piemonte Realty Trust, Nelson Matos, $65,000, Hawkes Brook Ln

NORTH ANDOVER

Thomas & Joan Pennace/Joan Marie Pennace, Hongmei Zong & Yan Wang, $1,530,000, 97 Windkist Farm Rd

Steven C & Susan E Marsh, Mark Doyle & Beth Walters, $1,511,000, 93 Johnson St

Christopher Madigan & Melanie Garger, Keith S & Beth McKenna & Barbara MacGillivray, $1,500,000, 84 Sugarcane Ln

Robert E & Mechelle M Sciaudone, Peter & Nikki Kuhlmann, $1,325,000, 78 Kara Dr

Thomas C & Jane E O'Connell, David & Theresa Yost, $1,285,000, 44 Kara Dr

Randall L Davis Tr & Theresa Yien Davis Tr/Teresa Yien Tr & Yien Davis Realty Trust, Riaz Ahamed & Shabeena Ammukunhi, $1,260,000, 81 Hitching Post Rd

Timothy & Patricia Williams, Olga Akselrod & Alex Mirchevsky, $1,200,000, 103 Barker St

Thomas M & Christine A Tetrault , Rosette Victoria Serwanga, $1,199,000, 102 Lost Pond Rd

Christopher T Lord Tr & Gretel M Holsten Tr & C & G Revocable Trust, Anna Humphrey & Nathaniel Doyle, $1,105,000, 83 Sandra Ln

Scott & Rebecca D'Entremont /Rebecca McMannus, Masood Khaksar Toroghi, $980,000, 49 Garnet Cir

Valerie J Duffield Tr & Valerie J Duffield Trust & George H Duffield III, Jason Kershner & Nicole Costello, $926,000, 54 Old Village Ln

Michael D & Pamela M Foote, Ryan Bucknam & Erin Leonard, $925,000, 24 Booth St

David M Diresta & Joanne L Foran, Claire E & William E Stewart Jr, $883,000, 10 Woodbridge Rd

Denise Finocchio Tr/Denise Finocchio Spitz Tr & Sisters Realty Trust, William M & Lorenzo A Schena Jr, $880,000, 443-445 Sutton St

Thais & Corey Chandler & Antonio Luiz Cordeiro, Aaron J Bourque & Alexandera L Vallieres & Lisa L Klemmer, $860,000, 1160 Salem St

Pembrook LLC, Amanda E Laws, $850,000, 21 Pembrook Rd

Brian T & Ellen M Fitzgerald, Kaelyn Nicole Sackett, $825,000, 336 Sharpners Pond Rd

Kevin J Langlois Tr & Langlois 2013 Family Trust, Alexander Flores, $770,000, 64-66 Saunders St

Phillip N & Adrain Russo, Holly C Lyles, $760,000, 217 Waverly Rd Unit 1

Peter V & Jacqueline A Demirdjian/ Jacqueline A Kelley, Daniel Edward Groark & Julia Anne Romanelli, $725,000, 455 Wood Ln

Jessica Holguin/Jessica A Connors, Amy & Michael Maribito, $725,000, 98 Adams Ave

Santosh Patur & Sasya Mallimala, Suresh Kumar Arora & Ritu Saluja, $707,500, 36 Hepatica Dr Uni 37

39 Cotuit Street LLC, Megan Elstrom Pappadopoulos, $655,000, 36 Bay State Rd

Jonathan/Jonathan Jay C Laguitao & Jona Christel H Lu, Megha Parameswaraiah, $655,000, 94 Compass Point Unit B1

Catherine G Rajewski, Brian B Beasley, $627,500, 135 Moody St

Mark W & Ellen Walsh, Robert & Alexandra Brainard, $585,000, 407 Massachusetts Ave

Philip & Blair Gaetano/Blair Koniszewski, Omkar Daphal & Kinjal Pravinbhai Patel, $530,000, 18 Marengo St Unit 3

Stacie Lemerise, Ritika Sengupta, $506,000, 25 Stacy Dr Unit 25

Jania Iris Pacheco & Omar David Pacheco, Tyler Wing, $500,000, 33 Upland St Unit 1

John F Holland Est & Philip W Holland, Patricia M Connolly & Stephen C Byrne, $476,400, 2 Harvest Dr Unit 301

Mary Emmanuel, Ru Chen, $467,500, 22 Andrews Cir

David Cardin Tr & Cardin Family II Realty Trust, XVI MA LLC, $465,000, 2 Harvest Dr Unit 302

John F Cusack Jr Tr & Cusack Family Trust, Jacqueline Cronan, $450,000, 166-168 Water St Unit 2

Kelley Flynn, Stephanie M & George N Korbani, $399,900, 61 Village Green Dr Unit 45

Eric Morgan Miller & Ariel L York, Mishell A Fortes Alberto Tr & Isabelle M Fortes Revocable Trust, $390,000, 148 Main St Unit C239

Mark Atwater, Kayla Howland, $385,000, 6 Bixby Ave Unit 6

Joan M Kalil, Ryan L Smith & Andrea Santini, $370,000, 46 Village Green Dr Unit 73

Rajendrakumar P & Jayshriben R Parekh, Carlyn Bowe, $365,000, 101 Edgelawn Ave Unit 10

Castelmar Properties LLC, Jose Manuel Escobar Vargas, $330,000, 11 Main St

Betty Giarrusso Tr/Betty Giarusso Tr & Betty Giarrusso Revocable Trust, Christine Fazio, $325,000, 148 Main St Unit B-433

Andrea Michele Kerrigan & Andrew Brian Kerrigan, Nathan Workneh & Hermela Kahsay, $325,000, 52 Farrwood Ave Unit 3

Jane C Teichert Tr & J C Teichert Nominee Realty Trust, Cameron Repici, $320,000, 90 Farrwood Ave Unit 90FW-1

Utpal & Dipa Gandhi, Elizabeth Mejia, $309,750, 230 Chickering Rd Unit 7

Mouhanad Almhna, John H Kimball III, $272,000, 6 Walker Rd Unit 6-3

Karen Farris Tr & Joanne Lindh Tr & Richard Langille Tr & Alexandra Pepe Tr & Stephanie J Capriulo Tr & Heritage Green Condominium Trust, Jeffrey P Lonks, $260,000, 39 Farrwood Ave Unit 1

Patricia Ann Ghikas/Patricia Ann Manos, Michael Manos & Christine Patricia Ruggeri, $150,000, 52 Adams Ave

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

of how we have gone about serving those in need. Perhaps the biggest was our response to food insecurity - our mobile food pantry which now makes it possible for us to reach veterans living on the Outer Cape Cod and the Islands, and who without our mobile programs, might otherwise find it impossible to benefit from our resources.

Moreover, the mobile food pantry has enabled us to schedule new food distributions twice monthly each in Falmouth and Eastham, as well as once monthly in Vineyard Haven on Martha's Vineyard. We have also been able to add a new, weekly distribution at our operations center in Hyannis. So, in the span of less than sixteen weeks we have grown our food pantry program from four monthly distributions to fourteen…an incredible increase of 308%. Our weekly veteran families served has jumped from 45 to now 260 families each week.

While we know there is a pressing need to create programs and structures that allow organizations to build more workforce and lower income housing, we cannot independently succeed in meeting the numbers required to meet the current and future demand. That reality has brought us to this very new, evolving relationship with HAC.

CIVOC and those we serve are being hindered by the reality that we live on the 1,306-square-mile peninsula that sports 400 miles of shoreline where there's every maritime-related opportunity along its breadth and width. Our driving distance to several major metropolitan centers and a heavily populated northeastern US corridor where friends and family might reside has made land acquisition daunting for us to accomplish as a single entity. We hope that this new partnership with HAC will empower both of our organizations to be successful in pursuing new housing opportunities.

We have also entered Community-Based Partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, and the Second Chance Thrift Store of the Family Pantry of Harwich. In both cases, these partners now give us a ready resource to move gifts of clothing and furniture that we could not previously accept from donors due to space and/or utilization limitations. In return, they will provide us with credits that can be used to help clothe and house new veterans. Then, when a veteran needs clothing or furniture for a job interview or a new apartment, we can help get them settled without any cash outlay. In handling gifts received in this manner, we can maximize the beneficial impact of the non-cash gifts that we receive.

Although research has found that the veteran population in the Commonwealth is decreasing, with a total estimated population of 180,298, Barnstable County remains the largest veteran population per capita containing approximately 9.6% of all veterans. Additionally, research indicates that Dukes and Nantucket counties are the only counties in Massachusetts experiencing an increase in their veteran population.

The cohorts we will serve (aligning with the veteran groups we currently serve) include:

All veterans of any era With specific attention to the following areas:

veterans over the age of 65;

veterans with disabilities to include blinded veterans;

veterans with traumatic brain injury;

women veterans;

veterans facing housing challenges;

veterans facing food insecurity;

veterans facing transportation challenges, veterans facing health and wellness challenges, veterans who have faced domestic abuse and, LGBTQ identified veterans.

OUTREACH SERVICES:

An assessment of Massachusetts Veterans needs conducted by the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) identified the importance of revamping outreach efforts to be more proactive and targeted. One recommendation was that organizations needed to offer a variety of solutions and tools because one size no longer fits all, given the diverse veteran communities we serve.

A critical success factor will be the expansion of outreach specific activities that enable the organization to identify and connect with the veterans in need from among the nearly 19,000 veterans living in the service area.

We recognize there are two kinds of veterans we typically encounter, those who want to help in our work, and those who need our help. We also realize there is a third group, those who don't come forward at all. It is in this group where we find veterans who may need help but are reluctant to ask or unaware of what may be available. A key measure of success will be the number of veterans identified and connected to in the region.

Outreach will be at the local community level through county and town-based organizations and will leverage a regional collaborative of existing partnerships with the Department of Veterans Services, the Veterans Administration (VA), and CBOC.

Services: Housing Assistance

Recognizing the high-cost real estate market on Cape Cod and the Islands for both home purchase and home rental:

• Provide online program related to financial budgeting in partnership with Bank of America (no cost);

• Provide financial housing assistance in the form of temporary vouchers to veterans who face challenges to the CORI process;

• Provide real-time coaching on reviewing a lease, working with a landlord, and setting up a residence

• Continue partnership with VNOC and the SSVF program to provide much needed housing money, and to provide additional/enhanced housing deposit support to veterans and their families

Employment Assistance

Refer job ready veterans to the MassHire Career Center in Hyannis.

Transportation Assistance

• Provide access to computers to complete educational online requirements ie: financial budgeting, school enrollment, education, training etc. (On-site computer lab - three computers)

Health & Wellness Supports

• Provide Holistic Therapies to include yoga and reiki programs, and diet and nutrition programs, as part of an overall counseling program with external contractors/partners.

Food Insecurity Assistance

• Provide expanded mobile food pantry services to homebound and disabled veterans across the service area using a newly acquired refrigeration van.

• Establish a food pantry hub facility large enough to support expansion plans to veterans in need while storing fresh food and dry good staples.

• Empower the food operations center to facilitate acquisition of larger weekly food deliveries, as well as resource donations from local food partners. These opportunities were previously impossible for us to accept due to inadequate transportation. The purchase of a new, refrigerated, liftgate equipped, box truck resolves those issues.

• Expand hours of operations and increase locations across the service area for veterans and their families in need.

• Add Food Pantry Operations staff

Legal Assistance

• Provide access to an established local area discounted legal network to assist with interpreting rental/housing contracts; wills; discharge upgrades; and other legal matters

Life Skills Supports

• Partner with Heroes in Transition to refer veterans and family members to their life skills focused programs to include the transitional support group program, canine co-pilot program that works with the veteran and their PTSD service dogs, therapy dogs and emotional support dogs.

• Partner with Ironstone Farm to provide equine therapy programs.

Social & Recreational Assistance

• Provide recreational opportunities to build camaraderie. Partner with:

o Saconnesset Golf Club

o Healing Waters Fishing Program

• Provide Monthly Gym Memberships

The growth of our community support throughout the year was nothing short of amazing. We were selected for the second time as a Seaside Lemans Beneficiary Award Recipient, for the first time a recipient of the Chatham Chorale Sings Summer Concert, our continued second year beneficiary of Local Copley Master Artist Marie Luise Hutchison's renowned Christmas Card fundraiser, and so many local school and community groups hosting activities to raise funds in support of our work.

Throughout the year it was and honor to host Congressman Keating and newly minted Secretary of the Office of Veterans Services Jon Santiago for a tour of our facilities and learn more about our organization.

As we continue in 2024 – there is much to do. We hope you will agree with us this is a very worthy mission. Please follow us on Facebook- Linked In and Instagram – please visit our website www.capeveterans.com and sign up to receive our monthly newsletter. Golfer, Navy Veteran, Patriot, Husband, and tireless Veterans advocate, Jim Seymour, is a "hero in our midst."

The Merrimack Valley American Legion Posts ask all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC!

The Valley Patriot staff ask Veterans of all eras, to go to the American Legion's Website www.legion.org, and join the American Legion. The American Legion's mission is working with our Congress, our Nation's Veterans, and our community, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations and serving all Veterans and their families.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 28 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com ◊

TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

"Presumed Innocent"

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

A high-profile Chicago attorney is brutally murdered, and one of her colleagues isn't the clean-cut family man he appears to be as the truth starts to slowly trickle out. That's how the new limited series 'Presumed Innocent,' my recommendation for this month, starts to unfold.

Jake Gyllenhaal is Rusty Sabich. He seemingly has it all. A loving wife and two kids, a beautiful house, and he's a rising star in the Chicago prosecutor's office. When Rusty receives a call that his colleague Carolyn Polhemus has been found bludgeoned to death, he jumps to take the case without disclosing that he and Carolyn had a torrid affair, an affair that his wife Barbara knew about. Although he's now reconciled with his wife, his life begins to unravel in ways that he or his family could never have anticipated, when the story of the affair is made public.

Deputy DA Tommy Molto, played by Peter Sarsgaard, openly hates Rusty and uncovers Carolyn's past with his enemy. Tommy begins to build a case against Rusty and through a series of flashbacks we are shown some of the history of Carolyn and Rusty's relationship from moments of passion, to gruesome images of the crime scene.

With each episode of 'Presumed Innocent' the suspicion of Rusty's guilt gets stronger and stronger. Increasingly desperate, we see him make one misguided mistake after another. Rusty quickly goes from the golden boy to the prime suspect in a brutal murder.

'Presumed Innocent' is so effective because it allows the viewer to get to know each character intimately. From Barbara's therapy sessions with her psychologist, to the Sabich teens' reactions to and understanding of their father's lies, the series' breathability gives it a haunting realism.

The cast is excellent, Gyllenhaal is terrific in the lead role, and Sarsgaard plays his part with such smarmy deviousness. Let's not forget the always great Bill Camp, who is top notch as Rusty's best friend and now his lawyer, Ray.

We also have David E. Kelley as the showrunner here. Kelley is a master of legal dramas, and depicts the politics that playout behind the scenes of a big city DA's office perfectly. As in all Kelley shows, the courtroom sequences are thrilling and extremely watchable.

If you're a fan of the original novel by Scott Turow, and the 1990 film starring Harrison Ford, that doesn't mean you know what's going to happen. The series does deviate from the source material enough so that you will still be surprised by what takes place.

'Presumed Innocent' has been renewed for a second season, which will focus on an entirely new case, with likely a new cast as well.

If you love a great murder mystery, then you'll love 'Presumed Innocent.' All of the episodes are available to stream on Apple TV+.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column. Follow me on Twitter and Instagram @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ◊

Jesus, Outside and Inside of the Box!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Greetings my friends! There are times when I wonder if anyone reads my column. Then unexpectantly someone came up to me and said how blessed they were every month to read what I have to say about, Jesus. I thought, that was very kind, they really did not have to do that. But truth be told, that is not the reason I write, to get the "pat on my back" or the "at a boy." No, I write because I am following orders. God told me to write only positive columns about His Son, Jesus. He said that there are too many writers telling people what He is against and not enough writers telling people what He is for! That He is not mad at people but madly in LOVE with them!

Speaking of what God is for, there is a verse in the Bible that goes like this in, Jeremiah 30:17, "For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds,' says the LORD, 'Because they called you an outcast saying: "This is Zion; No one seeks her." NKJV.

God is a God of restoration and He heals wounds! More than just cuts and bruises on the outside, but inside wounds, emotional wounds of our past. Something I have learned recently is that Negative Emotions are Jesus' invitations to ask Him what is it that He wants us to know about feeling the way we do. I have found that when I am feeling angry, or frustrated or any tension, that most likely has nothing to do with the present situation facing me, but something from my past that Jesus wants to Heal.

For example, I recently did something for someone because God told me to do it. All was wonderful until a long time had passed and I did not receive any thank you of any kind from this person. I started feeling angry and filling up with the notion that this person owes me! I finally asked myself, did I do what I did because I wanted a thank you or some kind of recognition that I did this person a favor? Or, did I do it because God told me to? Like what I wrote earlier, why do I write my column?

Then, I asked Jesus, when did I first feel this way? Next, Jesus reminded me of when I was 12 years old and ready for my last season of Little League Baseball. By this time, I was a pretty good hitter, I was expecting to do very well my final year. Then my coach showed up at my house and said that he did not have any uniform for me that would fit. I was very fat at the age of 12. I remember saying, But You Owe me a uniform! This is my last year of Little League! I can hit the ball very good! But, in the end he walked away from my house without giving me a uniform and I did not play my last year all because I was fat and they had no uniform that would fit. I succumbed to this feeling of frustration to the point it manifested into anger with shouts of "You Owe Me" which have been with me for years and shows its ugly head almost every time I would do something for someone.

So, I asked Jesus, what does He have to say about all of this? He answered by lovingly reminded me of a teaching I heard recently involving Isaiah 61:3-10, where He says the following, He gives me Beauty for Ashes, Oil of Joy for Mourning, a Garment of Praise for Despair, He clothes me in a Garment of Salvation and a Robe of Righteousness! He told me that His clothing will always fit me and He would never have clothes that would not fit no matter what size I was. That feeling of "you owe me" couldn't stand up to the Garments, the Uniform, that Jesus gave me!

So yes, Jesus Restores Emotional Damage from our past that we have been holding unto and may I add, He is very good at it!

I believed the lie that because I was fat, I was not worthy enough to have a baseball uniform. Jesus changed that Lie into His Truth that I am worthy of His Clothing, His Uniform Forever!

Jesus has Emotions, He felt every feeling we feel during His Life here on earth and He still feels them now while sitting at God's Right Hand as our High Priest, making intercession for us.

Hebrews 4:14-15, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." KJV.

Hebrews 7:24-28, "But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself." NKJV.

This is our Jesus, our High Priest, our God!

Let us do the Listening Prayer together, Dear Jesus, what is it that you want us to know about living in the truest sense of our Identity Today? What is it that you want us to do? Write down what you hear.

God Bless You,
Much Love, Peter Larocque
peterlarocque@hotmail.com ◊

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